

Bavarian News

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U.S. Army Garrisons Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels, Ansbach, Bamberg, and Schweinfurt

June 27, 2007

Garrison eyeing housing needs

332 Families on waiting list to receive permanent housing by fall

by ADRIANE FOSS
Editor

Hundreds of Families on the waiting list for permanent housing at U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr can expect to be in their assigned units by this fall, thanks to near-continuous construction of new homes and renovations of older units.

Waiting Families began moving into Netzaberg—Grafenwoehr's newest housing area—June 18 and will continue to move into this and other garrison housing areas as units become available, explained Albert Schunk, Garrison Grafenwoehr's acting chief of Housing.

"We have just acquired 88 units in Netzaberg and we've already

"We have Soldiers and Families who need to focus on the upcoming deployment. We will house everyone as soon as we possibly can ..."

Tom Hays
DPW Chief

committed all of the 88 units to waiting Families. But we still have 332 Families waiting for permanent housing," said Schunk.

He explained that the average wait time for Families to move into permanent housing is two to three months, and that housing assignments are based on rank and bedroom requirements.

For example, the number of children in a Family is one factor in

determining what type of unit/how many bedrooms a family will receive. The other factor is grade category. Field grade officers (O-4 and above), for example, are not necessarily eligible for units that senior enlisted noncommissioned officers (E-7 to E-9) may be eligible for.

Director of Public Works Tom Hays said the most in-demand units are typically three- and four-bedroom units.

Hays called the extended waits more of a timing factor than a housing shortage. He said the waits are, in part, due to the annual summer surge, when high numbers of military Families PCS en masse.

"It really is a matter of timing. If enough people arrive (PCS in) before other people move (PCS out), then we're going to have these waits. But

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The Details

Of the 332 waiting Families, 114 are residing:

- in hotels (on or off post),
- hotel-like accommodations, or
- with Family or friends.

The remaining 218 Families are in:

- unaccompanied personal housing,
- private rental quarters,
- government quarters, or
- temporary quarters

DEPLOYMENT 101

Find out where, how to get all the information you need

by BILYANAATOVA
Staff writer

The following article is the first in a series titled "Deployment 101." These articles are designed to answer deployment-related questions for our Families. If you have a deployment topic you would like addressed in an upcoming issue, call DSN 475-7113 or e-mail adriane.foss@us.army.mil.

If you and your Family are facing deployment, preparing for it as early as possible is essential.

Some of the most immediate questions that face Families are: Where does one get information from? Should you contact the Family Readiness Group, your rear detachment commander, or Army Community Services? And how much and what kind of help can you expect to receive?

There are several agencies throughout U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr that are available to help Families prepare, answer their questions, and guide them throughout the pre-deployment process.

One of the best places to begin your information search your unit FRG. "The FRG serves as a guide for Family members, it provides

information, and it is a shelter, a place for support especially when you are away from home," said Marylou Solorzano, the FRG leader for the 535th Engineer Company which is preparing to deploy in the fall.

Solorzano has been a military spouse for 10 years and will experience her fifth deployment this year.

She explained that if spouses have questions about pre-deployment and during deployment, their FRG should have the answers or should be able to get the answers for them.

Among the FRGs' myriad tasks, they also support Soldiers, provide activities for spouses and children, send care packages to deployed troops, and organize Welcome Home events.

Kay Simpkins, the Grafenwoehr's Deployment and Mobilization Program manager, called the FRG one of the best resources for Families to get timely and accurate information and stay in the loop.

"Family members should attend the FRG meetings so they know what is going on," said Simpkins.

She noted that information that streams in from the deployed units is relayed to the rear detachment commanders and the FRGs.

"And the FRG and the rear

detachment commander should be informed by the Family member if a problem comes up because they have the team to help the Family member," said Simpkins.

For example, explained Solorzano, if a Family member's car breaks down while their Soldier is deployed, the FRG can offer assistance to the Family.

The rear detachment staff of a deployed unit remains behind during deployment and is responsible for providing assistance to the unit's Family members, including:

- coordination with on and off post agencies;
- communication with members of the deployed unit;
- facilitating mail to the deployed Soldiers; and
- distributing leave and earnings statements.

During deployment, Families should keep the FRG and rear detachment personnel informed of changes in address or contact information, and let them know how you can be reached when you leave town or go on vacation.

"The FRG, rear detachment, and ACS—it takes all of us to make it work," said Simpkins.

She said each of them work together but have different

perspectives and offer different types of assistance. One thing they do have in common, she said, is that if they don't know the answer to your question, they are supposed to know how to find the information for you.

To assist Soldiers and Families with pre-deployment issues, ACS is sponsoring a pre-deployment fair and Dragoon Rodeo at the Vilseck Memorial Gym July 11, 12 and 13. Several agencies will discuss the services they offer and answer questions for attendees.

"The purpose of the fair is to connect the Family members with the resources in and around Grafenwoehr area," Simpkins said.

Some of the agencies include:

- Legal and USO
- EDIS and DEERS
- AFTB and ADAC
- TriCare and Red Cross
- Housing and CYS
- AER and Medical

Some of the most oft-asked questions, said Solorzano, are questions about vehicle registration, registering newborns, and Families returning to the U.S. during deployment.

"A lot of time spouses want to go back because it is a longer deployment, See **DEPLOYMENT** Page 29

18th CSSB, German unit partner

Story and photo by KATIE COWART
Assistant editor

On June 12, the partnership between the German army's Freihung reserve unit and U.S. Army's 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion became official as Lt. Col. David Lueders, the previous 18th CSSB commander, and Freihung Mayor Norbert Buecherl signed a pledge to continue working to bring the two communities closer together.

The partnership ceremony was in conjunction with a public swearing in of new Germany army recruits that took place the same night.

18th CSSB was also a part of this ceremony, standing in formation along with the Germany army.

The 140 new German soldiers are part of German Army Engineer Battalion 4 from Neunburg, which is part of the 12th Panzer Brigade of Amberg. Several other communities applied for the honor of having the new recruits sworn in from their town.

Both Buecherl and Lueders spoke during the partnership ceremony, each in his native language. The speeches were then translated so that all attendees could understand.

Lueders said the partnership with the Freihung unit is two years old and began with a pairing with the 702nd Explosive Ordnance Company because of the similarities in their jobs, but soon the alliance grew to include

See **18TH CSSB** Page 29

Soldier dies from injuries sustained during training



2SCR's Sgt. Jonathon R. Gilbert was struck in the head by a live round while his squad was conducting a live-fire exercise May 30.

Courtesy photo

V Corps Public Affairs news release

A 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment Soldier died June 9 at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center of wounds sustained while conducting a squad live-fire exercise at the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Training Area May 30.

The deceased is Sgt. Jonathon R. Gilbert, 22, of Old Town, Idaho, assigned to Hotel Company, 3rd Squadron, 2SCR, based at Rose Barracks in Vilseck.

He is survived by his parents, two brothers and a sister.

Gilbert was injured during the exercise on the training area's Range 307 at approximately 9 p.m. He was struck in the head by a live round while the squad was conducting a live-fire run following a rehearsal with blank

rounds.

Gilbert was initially evacuated to the Weiden Hospital, then transferred to Barmherzige Brueder Hospital in Regensburg, and finally to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center where he died from his injuries.

Gilbert entered the service in May 2003 and joined the 2SCR in May 2006. During this time, he deployed to Iraq with the 25th Infantry Division.

Gilbert was awarded, among others, a Purple Heart; an Army Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster; a Global War of Terror Expeditionary Medal, and a Global War of Terror Service Medal.

A memorial ceremony for Gilbert took place June 15 at the Rose Barracks chapel in Vilseck. The accident is under investigation.



Lt. Col. David Lueders of 18th CSSB signs an official partnership agreement June 12.

Q&A

Who will win the **Democratic & Republican** presidential nominations?



Laurie Reineke
"I am watching the news, but haven't made a decision about it yet."

Samuel Choice
"I have no idea. I don't keep up with it. One way or another I'll still serve the president."



Sonja Neidinger
"I think Hillary is going to make it."

Anthony Feige
"I know Hillary's ahead in the polls, but there's a good chance of Obama pulling ahead."



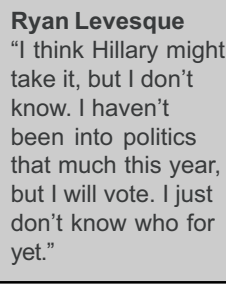
Roger Miranda
"Looks like Hillary, she's ahead in the polls. I'm not much into politics, though."



Anita Shaw
"Hillary is going to win."



Catherine VanDyne
"Hillary will probably win the nomination, but no one will vote for her since our country isn't ready for a female president."



Ryan Levesque
"I think Hillary might take it, but I don't know. I haven't been into politics that much this year, but I will vote. I just don't know who for yet."



Command Message

Army, civilian accident rates down 25 percent from last year

USAG Grafenwoehr recently executed our quarterly Safety and Health Promotion council meetings.

The great safety news is overall Army trends are down. We are suffering fewer casualties than last year.

In the community, our civilian accident rate is also down by 25 percent as compared to last year. And continuing a trend, our civilian work accident rates are less than USAREUR or the German Economy.

Keep up the good work. Highlights and trends of the remainder of the council meetings are listed below.

DUIs

Graf and Vilseck have had over 70 DUIs this year which is an increase as compared to last year.

While part of this can be explained by an increase in population and by Soldiers and Family members not thinking and deciding they can drive after a few drinks, part of the increase may be because the community does not understand the standards.

Even though the standards are briefed as part of in-processing briefings, it is worthwhile to state the standards again. Most DUI stops occur off-post.

In Germany, you are considered DUI if your

blood alcohol content exceeds .05 percent. If you are involved in an accident, whether your fault or not, and your BAC is greater than .03 percent, you are considered DUI.

So to sum up – Just don't drink and drive. Use a designated driver. Even one beer, particularly a German beer, will cause just about everyone to exceed BAC standards.

Fires

In the past month we have had two serious fires and several smaller situations that caused the fire department to react and contain. While we have not had any fatalities, we have had significant government and personnel property damage.

While the investigations continue and no definitive rationale is provided on these two fires, the Army overall continues to see unattended cooking and lack of care in the use of candles and flames as the two major reasons for household fires.

We will continue the investigations to determine both the causes of the fire and the garrison response to the fires – particularly if there are steps we can do to mitigate loss in future events.

As a refresher, if a fire occurs, call the fire department. Phone numbers are provided below. Get out, stay out, and inform first responders of the status of Family members affected by the blaze, to include pets.

And above all, monitor your cooking at all times and be careful with candles and open flames.

- On post: DSN 117
- CIV Graf: 117 or 09641-83-117
- CIV Vilseck: 117 or 09662-83-117
- Off post housing, including Netzaberg: 112

Health Promotion Council

Highlights of the council were a review of the health care programs provided to the community. The good news is we are getting more services.

We expect in the coming year to get additional psychiatry, pediatric, occupational health, optometry, and audiology services.

On the dental side, we expect to see greater oral services and children dentistry.

The challenges remain that because of summer underlap, we may be short some services until the summer is over. But overall as the U.S. Army in Germany executes restationing actions, medical and dental services in our community will only get better.

We have just finished the annual review of garrison policy letters. I intend over the next several editions to review the highlights of these policies with the community.

Again thanks for all you do to make this community the best place to live and serve in Germany.

*Col. Brian T. Boyle
Commander, U.S. Army
Garrison Grafenwoehr*

Saying 'no' becomes art form as kids grow up and decisions become harder



JACEY ECKHART
On the Homefront

The 5-year old peered around my bathroom door. I slapped my book on the side of the tub.

"Pete, what are you doing in here? We brushed teeth. We read stories. We did prayers. Go back to bed," I directed.

Pete looked me dead in the eye. "Nope," he said. Then he leaned against the doorframe. I sprang from the tub.

"When I tell you to get to bed young man, I mean it. Do it."

"Nope," he repeated, relishing the juice of the word as it tumbled from his lips.

I grabbed a towel, stuck my hand in Pete's back and propelled the boy down the hall.

Pete may understand the power of Nope, but he doesn't quite have the art form down yet.

I do. I've been a parent for 17 years. As a parent in a military family I have no delusions that my children need tenderness more than discipline.

I don't worry whether or not they will still love me if I make them brush with tartar control Crest. I understand the Art of the No.

And it is an art. I can't just throw any "No" out there and expect it to stick. It has to be the right "No."

With Pete, every no is clearly for his own dang good. A preschooler is not allowed to live on popsicles. He cannot drive the car with his feet.

With Pete, I am the Jackson Pollock of naysayers throwing "Nos" at a gigantic canvas with utter abandon.

Which, is all well and good when you have toddlers and preschoolers lying around. It is when you get those teenagers going that you suddenly realize you have to be much more artful with your "Nos."

Now that my oldest is 17, there aren't so many "Nos" left on my palette especially when her dad is at sea.

I am learning to be a minimalist with my "Nos", etching them like a series of red dots on a white canvas.

"Can I go to a party at a hotel room?"

Kelsey will ask.

"No." I'll reply.

"Can I go to the sleepover at Jonathan's house?"

"No."

"Should I take up pole dancing? Travel to Vegas for Spring Break? Have my tongue pierced with a tiny silver basketball? Dress like a Nazi for the Halloween party?"

No. No. No. Again, no.

Since I've only got enough "Nos" left to spend on the biggies, I find myself saying

"OK" to things I would have said "No" to just last year.

Not quite "Yes." Just "OK."

"Mom, Cheryl's boyfriend broke up with her and she's crying and she doesn't have a way home from the party and we can't call her parents cuz they don't know she's here and I know you said I couldn't drive anyone else but I don't wanna leave her here and it's not raining that hard."

That "No" wants to spring from my lips as if she were still five years old.

But if I say "No" to this call, I might not hear from her the next time. She'll tell her friends I say "No" to everything.

And the "Nos" I have left will be no use to her.

"Well, OK," I tell her. "Call me when you get to Cheryl's house."

I hang up thinking there is no art in "OK." No relish. No abandon, just the mealy taste of hoping that you've done the right thing.

A 19-year military spouse, Jacey Eckhart is a syndicated columnist with CinCHouse.com, a published author, and the host of The Jacey Eckhart Show, www.cinchouse.com/Jacey.



**"Adventures of Bob" by Courtney Beilhart
Grade 3, Age 8**

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Stay alert, prevent summer-time injuries with simple tips

by ISABEL TILZY, RN
Special to the Bavarian News

It's that time of year again. Summer, that is. It's the season which signals the end of another school year, the prospect of vacation, and the enticement of sunny days. I know it's my favorite time of year. I can finally pack away those woolly sweaters and long johns, and pull out the shorts and tank tops!

However, with all that sunshine and outdoor activity comes the need to follow the "Double P" principle: **PROTECTION** (against the sun's damaging rays) and **PREVENTION** (of injury). It's not exactly what one wants to hear when gearing up for a good time, but, nonetheless, an important aspect of being able to enjoy your time and fun in the sun in safety.

A huge part of the summer experience is school recess, especially if you're a child. No more pencils, no more books, no more teachers...well, you remember the rest. As a parent it's up to you to ensure your child has as safe a summer experience as possible.

To start with, get them out of the house, and get them physically active-for at least an hour every day. Limit the time they spend in front of

a TV, computer or game screen to no more than two hours a day.

Your housing area playgrounds and personal outdoor play equipment can provide your child with fun, fresh air, and plenty of exercise, but they can also pose some safety hazards. Faulty equipment, improper surfaces, and careless behavior can cause injuries.

Each year, more than 200,000 kids are treated in hospital emergency rooms for playground-related injuries. Many of these injuries could have been prevented with proper adult supervision.

Parents can help prevent playground accidents by: checking the equipment for potential hazards, and ensuring it is appropriate for your child's age and maturity level; teaching your child how to play safely, and to avoid rough-housing on or around the equipment; and, ensuring an adult is always present at the playground. If you notice a potential hazard with the equipment in your government housing playground, notify your building coordinator, who will in turn notify the housing office.

If you're not sure whether you can allow your child out alone on the playground, please refer to the IMA Child-Supervision Guidance

memorandum, which is based on your child's grade in school, and not their age. A copy can be found on www.aeaim.hqusareur.army.mil.

Another wonderful outdoor activity for the entire family is bike riding. And, once again, it is an activity which requires safety measures to prevent injuries. Each year in the U.S., over 250 children die in bike-related accidents, and close to half a million are injured.

Although 75 percent of the serious injuries could have been avoided if a helmet was worn, only about 20 percent of children in the U.S. wear a helmet. It's not only the fact that a helmet is worn, but that it is worn correctly.

The children on my street on post have been stopped countless times by me in order to fix their helmets. And, it's not only children that need to wear those helmets. AER 190-1, Section VI, para 5-28 states that "Bicycle operators and passengers on DOD and U.S. Forces installations **must** wear an approved helmet properly fastened under the chin."

So, parents, serve as the role model for your child, and use that helmet. If your child is skating, rollerblading or skateboarding, the same holds true. Your child will need

even more safety equipment, such as knee, elbow, and wrist pads, in addition to the helmet, to prevent injuries. Don't worry about "helmet-hair." Just think "safety first." Also, don't forget to teach your child to obey bike safety rules, follow posted street signs, and exercise caution while riding in traffic.

As the weather warms up, trips to the local Schwimmbad and water parks are a must! However, all children need constant supervision around water of any kind: in the bathtub, wading pool in your backyard, swimming pool, beach or lake. Younger children need extra supervision; they can drown in less than two inches of water.

It's a good idea for you and your children to learn how to swim. Sadly, in Germany we don't have the luxury of a local YMCA, but you can check with the local Schwimmbad or safety office about lessons in your area.

The following tips can be useful when enjoying the water: ensure there is a qualified lifeguard on duty; use proper-fitting, Coast Guard-approved life vests on your child (inflatable vests and arm bands are not effective protection against drowning); get out of the water during bad weather, especially

See **SUMMER** Page 4



Spotlight on Education

Name: Angie Hood

What grade/subject do you teach? Third grade

Hometown: Spartanburg, S.C.

How long have you been a teacher? 7 years

What do you like best about teaching? I enjoy watching the students grow and mature socially as well as academically. I especially like to watch as they progress as readers and writers

What advice can you give students to help them succeed in school? Ask lots of questions every day.

Navy officer pays hefty price for driving drunk

Extreme, costly chain of events turns sailor's life upside down

Naval Safety Center

If you do not read anything else this upcoming holiday, make sure you read this:

Diary of a Drunk Driver: I am a 46-year-old Naval officer stationed at the Naval Medical Center San Diego. I have been on active duty for 27 years that included 16 years of service as enlisted. The following paragraphs lay out in detail a chronological chain of events that completely changed my life over the last year from Halloween 2005 to Halloween 2006. Please take a few minutes to read this diary and hopefully what happened to me will never happen to you:

A few points about myself I want to share before going into the details of my eventual arrest for Driving Under The Influence of Alcohol.

I did not consume alcohol on a consistent basis. As a matter of fact, I only drank alcohol occasionally at home or occasional social gatherings.

I am an avid long distance runner and have completed three marathons (Rock and Roll here in San Diego twice and the Marine Corps Marathon in Washington, D.C.)

I have two almost grown children and have very strong religious and moral beliefs.

What happened to me can

happen to anybody, anytime, anywhere if you are an alcohol user.

I am not telling anyone not to use alcohol. I am saying however do not, do not, do not, consume alcohol of any amount and operate a motor vehicle. Take a taxi, call a friend or walk home. Do not drink and drive!

On Oct. 29 2005 at about 8:45 p.m. I was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol on Interstate 8 at the College Avenue exit. I had just left a social gathering where alcohol was served.

While driving home, I was stopped by the San Diego Sheriff's Department because my driving was impaired by the alcohol and I crossed over the white line that separated the lanes. I was issued a field sobriety test and failed.

I was placed under arrest at the scene and transported to the San Diego county jail. Don't believe what you see on TV where the high-priced lawyer comes and gets you out 15 minutes later. It will not happen.

You will be there for a minimum of eight to 10 hours. You will be searched, fingerprinted, photographed and then placed in a cell 20 X 20 with 40 of your best friends that you never want to see again. The only thing in this room is a toilet in the corner.

After the eight to 10 hours and processing was complete I was released. I walked out of the jail on

the streets of San Diego at about eight in the morning and came face to face with at least 75 homeless people.

And I thought I had a bad night. Now this is where the fun begins.

I had to attend a three-month First Conviction Program at SDSU that included 12 one-hour classes each week for 12 weeks and six two-hour lectures for six weeks.

I attended a mandatory Mothers against Drunk Driving lecture in which three moms told the story of the loss of their children to drunk drivers. A very emotional and guilt-ridden experience.

I had to complete 10 days of community service picking up trash, cleaning parks, etc for the city.

I had to hire an attorney to represent me and contact my insurance company. I went to court and received a substantial fine.

The combined costs of this was:

- First Conviction Program: \$445
- MADD: \$25
- Attorney: \$1,700
- Fine and Court Costs: \$1,950

■ Total: \$4,120

And I haven't even talked about the insurance. It does not matter who your insurance company is, they will cancel you and you will have to obtain a much less reputable insurance and much higher price.

It will cost you thousands of dollars over the years.

Then the DMV, oh joy. I lost my driver's license completely for 30 days and had a restricted license for five more months.

And this was before I ever went to court.

The DMV will revoke and suspend your license without a conviction. Driving is a privilege, not a right. Just being cited is justification. And then you have to pay to get it back. The cost is \$195.

I was selected for promotion to LCDR effective Feb. 1 2006.

My promotion was withdrawn and I was removed from the promotion listing.

I was processed for administrative separation and will retire involuntarily within the next six months.

The reason I talk about this is because if I had not been arrested, I would have continued on active duty for four more years and reached a 30 year retirement.

If I lived for 20 more years which is very reasonable, the loss of this LCDR pay at 30 years vice LT pay at 26 years will end up being approximately \$600,000 over 20 years.

As you have noticed, I made a point of the monetary loss.

The monetary loss pales in comparison to the shame, emotional pain, grief and guilt that this will cause you, your family, your friends, your co-workers, and just about every person you come in contact with.

It can completely destroy your life as you know it. It will have an adverse effect on every facet of your life.

I am just so thankful that I did not kill someone while driving under the influence of alcohol. I have only detailed the highlights (if you can call them that) of this experience.

There are many more smaller painful points but they are too many too mention.

My hope is that for those of you who take the time to read this you will not drink and drive.

If my pain keeps just one of you from drinking and driving and even more if it saves one life then it was worth the pain.



Dear Demetrius,

My question is about sports drinks like Gatorade and POWERade.

I prefer to drink these drinks because I do not care for the taste of water. I have heard

HEALTHY EMPOWERMENT

BY DEMETRIUS WILLIS

many different things about sports drinks versus water.

Can you clear up some of the myths including how much I should drink during my workouts?

Should I walk around with a gallon jug like I have seen some guys do at the gym?

"A Toast to Our Health"

Jason

Dear Jason,

This is an excellent question! I remember talking to a sports dietitian about the same thing when I first started working out.

The longer and more intense your workout is the more important it is to drink the right type of beverage.

These fluids are essential because as you sweat and lose water from your system (that is not replaced) your blood begins to thicken and your heart must work harder to move the blood through the

body. This can negatively affect performance and workout results.

Drink about two cups of water before you head to the gym and drink half a cup of water every 15-20 minutes during your workout.

If exercising less than 60 minutes, plain water is just what the doctor ordered. If you need a little flavor try some lemon juice or preferred flavoring packet.

If exercising in excess of 60 minutes at a high intensity there may be some benefit from ingesting a

sports drink which can help replace lost electrolytes.

Cold fluids are absorbed faster in the stomach, so regardless make sure that beverage is cold and listen to your body so you drink enough of it.

Demetrius

Send your nutrition and fitness questions to usaggnews@EUR.army.mil. Willis is a registered dietician and a certified personal trainer.

Area store keeps baking tradition alive, in the family for more than 140 years

Story and photos by
BILYANA ATOVA
Staff writer

With more than 6,000 different types of bread, Germans are very proud of their baking culture. A culture, the history of which has been passed down through generations. And while a few changes have taken place in bread preferences and methods, the basics have been preserved. Just down the road from Grafenwoehr, in the neighboring town of Eschenbach, one family has helped preserve the national baking tradition for more than a century.

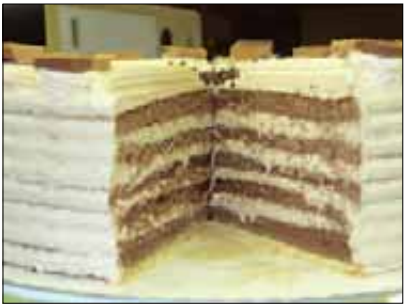
The history
The family founded Heindl's Baeckerei in 1865 and continues to own and operate the landmark bakery. "One hundred years ago in Eschenbach there were six bakeries like ours, now ours is the only one" said Karin Wittmann, one of three sisters from the youngest generation still working at the bakery.



"My great-grandfather, my grandfather, my father and me, we are all master bakers," said Wittmann of her proud lineage.

Family tradition
Today three generations of the original family work together in the bakery, although the name change is a result of marriage. "It is a tradition in Germany to take over the family business" said Wittmann, "I grew up in the bakery, and this is what I always wanted to do."

The smells of fresh baked bread and a colorful multitude of various shaped homeade treats assault the senses upon entering the establishment. As with most traditional bakeries in Germany, loaves of bread are arranged in the back, and sweet pastries, chocolates, cakes, and rolls are displayed in the glass fronted counter. There is a rich variety to choose from, the cake and pastry selection change daily, the chocolates are distinct characters and elaborate designs, but most importantly, "everything is hand made," said



Wittmann. "We started making chocolates about 25 years ago" she said, while showing off a meticulously crafted chocolate figure. "We call this Pinocchio. It is unique", said Wittmann. "It is made in a 50-year-old mold. You cannot buy this mold anymore." Showing the extensive variety of chocolates and chocolate figures Wittmann noted that their "regular customers come all the way from Nuernberg to buy chocolate."

Locally fresh
One major difference between Heidl and other area bakeries, she said, is that most of them are chain bakeries, and their "products are baked someplace else," and must be transported to the stores. "Every day at 1 a.m. we start making the bread, then the rolls, around 5 a.m. I start making cakes" Wittmann said "I make it so early because people have to take them fresh." Wittmann explained the age-old German tradition of consuming bread. "Everybody eats bread here" she said "It belongs to Germans like clothes."



Over the years the Soldiers living around or visiting the Grafenwoehr area have enjoyed the the treats that Heindl proudly produces. Superstars, notwithstanding, she said.. **The 'King' Customer**
Elvis Pressley visited the bakery regularly while training at Grafenwoehr in the 1950's. "My grandmother used to make him sandwiches." Wittmann said "He liked ham sandwich with cheese, mustard and pickles. "Most of the Soldiers liked these sandwiches. They always stopped here because we had the best



Many of the baked goods crafted at the Eschenbach's Heindl bakery are made from molds that are a half-century old, and cannot be purchased in stores. Three generations of family members hand bake all of the items.

GES Earth Day teaches students environmental lessons

by **BILYANA ATOVA**
Staff writer

The Grafenwoehr Elementary School Earth Week celebration took place May 7-11. The goal was to inspire awareness of and appreciation for the earth's environment. "This one is the best celebrations we have had in years," said Elfriede Kean, a Grafenwoehr Elementary School teacher and the organizer of the event. The Earth Week is inspired by Earth Day, celebrated in March by the

United Nations and April 22 as a world-wide observance day. Earth Day is "a global holiday to celebrate the wonder of life on our planet" John McConnell said, the founder of Earth Day, and is a great possibility for the children to get more knowledge on how to protect the planet. "(The kids) need to learn about nature," Kean said, noting that "today, our kids have a very little contact with Mother Nature." During the week each grade participated in on- and off-post events. The events included a visit to the

water purification plant in Grafenwoehr; studying beavers and storks in their habitat; and a visit to Steinfels to study recycling. First graders went to Grafenwoehr-Bierlohe to study the environment on a nature trail. "The kids got the possibility to use binoculars and the whole experience was so interesting and fascinating for them," Kean said. "We are trying our best to teach the kids how to take care of Mother Nature. When it comes to nature, you have to start learning early," said Kean.

"We have stations inside and out, everything is happening at the same time," Kean said, of the activities set up at GES May 11. The Utilities and Environmental Department provided recycling quizzes for the children, depending on their age, and awarded prizes. "Recycling is very important, especially for the Americans," said Mr. Hooker, a third grade teacher in attendance. "It takes a lot for us to get used to doing it." "Kids know about recycling; they do it every day in school and parents

should listen to their children more when it comes to recycling. It is their future," Kean said. Some of the other activities that occurred during the day were making projects out of recycling materials; guessing games; planting beans; watching videos about the earth and the environment; there was a microscope station; a scavenger hunt; and a visit to the Water Tower in Grafenwoehr that was opened for the first time in three years for the children.

See **ENVIRONMENT** Page 29

CDC prepping pre-kindergarten students for school

Special to the Bavarian News
Well it's almost time - your child is 5 years old (or will be before the kindergarten cut-off date of Oct. 31) and will be entering kindergarten in September. If you are a parent of a 5 year old you are probably thinking, "Where did those first five years go?" At Grafenwoehr Child Development Center we know how fast those years pass and the importance of getting off to a strong start in kindergarten. In support of this, Grafenwoehr CDC opened a pre-kindergarten and preschool classroom last fall with 14 full-day pre-kindergarteners (children who will start kindergarten in September). "What we do in the pre-K program is provide them with skills needed for kindergarten," said Joann Valenzuela, the Vilseck CDC director, "so it's win-win for the schools, children, and parents." The staff at Grafenwoehr CDC met with Grafenwoehr Elementary School kindergarten teachers last spring and again this year to learn about their expectations for children entering kindergarten and discussed ways how we could support each child's success when they head off to the "big school". CDC staff visited GES

kindergarten classrooms and worked with Ivan Taylor, our on-site training and curriculum specialist to add pre-K readiness activities to the weekly activity plans. In April, Grafenwoehr CDC held a parent advisory committee meeting where Crystal Bailey, principal for GES, shared lots of good information with parents on how they can help their child enter kindergarten "ready to learn". She was very pleased to see and hear that much of what she shared is already core part of the CDC's pre-kindergarten program. The Grafenwoehr CDC pre-kindergarten program follows the goals and objectives of an Army-wide adopted curriculum called Creative Curriculum. This program focuses on the same areas of child development that GES kindergarten classrooms do: social/emotional, physical, cognitive and language development. "The Department of the Army has endorsed it because we have found it to be the most comprehensive curriculum for all children, not just those specific to Vilseck or Grafenwoehr," Valenzuela said. "This program goes from infancy on up, and since it is Army-wide, it

will provide continuity for the kids." In addition, the preschool/pre-K classroom at the CDC is set up in a manner similar to the GES kindergarten rooms. Learning centers rather than a classroom filled with desks is the norm. Centers such as science and discovery, dramatic play, blocks, writing, library, and creative art are some of learning centers you will find in both programs. Why learning centers? Because studies have proven that children learn best by doing, by active participation. Centers support and encourage this style of learning far better than the "old school" method of sitting at desks and completing workbooks. "The kindergarten is set up similar in nature to our program. The school system concluded that this is the best way for kids this age to learn," Valenzuela said. When children engage in center-based learning they are also working on one of the most critical areas of development, social and emotional skills. Children learn to wait for their turn at each center, work together on projects and discover the importance of both being and making friends. In addition, both programs have a

set daily schedule to help children learn predictability and routine. Routines help children learn and follow classroom rules, listen to adults, speak one at a time, and lots more. "Children get everything they need to succeed in elementary school," Valenzuela said. The pre-K children at Grafenwoehr CDC have moved up to the kindergarten room and will spend the summer learning and playing together with the "experienced" children who completed kindergarten in school year 2007. They will go on field trips to places like the weather station, the zoo and the aquarium, enjoy a new cooking experience each week, take trips to the library to continue to foster a love of reading, enjoy water play days and tend their own flower and vegetable garden while they learn about topics as varied as wild animals, the wonders of water and lots more. For more information on the CDC's Pre-K program and other programs at the CDC, please call DSN 475-7180 for CYS Central Registration in Grafenwoehr or DSN 476-2760 for CYS Central Registration in Vilseck.

Summer safety

Continued from Page 3
lightning; don't swim too close to piers or pilings when at a beach; follow age, height, weight, and health requirements posted at water park rides; and, always supervise your child. Now, how about those summer holidays, like Independence Day? It's a day of sun (hopefully), barbecues, and fireworks. If out in the sun, wear sunscreen that is SPF 15 or greater, and reapply it at least every two hours (more often if you're exercising, playing sports or swimming). Don't forget to wear your hat and sunglasses along with that sunscreen, even on those cloudy days. And, once the evening sets in, and you're ready to enjoy the fireworks display, do just that! Let someone else, preferably a professional, light up the sky. Improperly handled fireworks can cause burn, hand and eye injuries in both children and adults. Besides, fireworks are not allowed on military installations. Sounds like a lot to do just to get out there and have some fun with your family, but it's worth it to keep you all safe and injury-free. Just remember the "double Ps" and you'll be on your way to a fun-filled and injury-free day!



One hundred forty new recruits were sworn into German Army Engineer Battalion 4 during a June 12 ceremony in Freihung. Moments later, a partnership ceremony was conducted between the German army reserves of Freihung and U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr's 18th CSSB. Soldiers of the 18th CSSB also marched in with the active duty German army.

SEE PAGE 1 FOR FULL STORY.

Staff photo by Katie Cowart



Staff photo by Bilyana Atova

The Grafenwoehr Torch Club Dragons received their newly designed T-shirts June 6. As one of their annual outreach projects, the Dragons sent U.S. military supporter and Oscar-winning actor Denzel Washington a T-shirt and letter in appreciation for his support of the Boys and Girls Club of America, to which the Torch Club is affiliated.



Staff photo by Kimberly Gearhart

The USAG Schweinfurt celebrated Flag Day and the Army Birthday with a 20 X 38-foot garrison flag, a color guard, dignitaries, and speeches in Andrus Garden June 14. Lt. Col. Tony Haager noted that after 232 years, the Army is still the strongest land force in the world, thanks to the sacrifices of its Soldiers and their Families.



Photo by Simon Hupfer

Amanda Wesson has her blood pressure screened during the initial assessments for U.S. Army Garrison Bamberg's Operation Walk 4 Freedom, a post-wide health initiative where participants log miles to equal the distance to Iraq, Afghanistan, or wherever a loved one is deployed.



Staff photo by Katie Cowart

JMTC Commander Brig. Gen. David Hogg and Garrison Grafenwoehr Commander Col. Brian Boyle help attendee Col. Robert Rush cut the first slice of Army birthday cake with a saber. Rush was the oldest active duty military member present at the June 14 birthday party at Grafenwoehr's Tower View Inn.



The Schweinfurt MWR crew organized a Family Fun Fair earlier this month. Community members set up tables and soaked up the sun while children, like 7-year-old Kenneth Elliott (pictured), enjoyed bouncy castles and a bucking bronco.

Staff photo by Kimberly Gearhart

Lt. Col. Christopher J. Roscoe took command of the 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion from Lt. Col. David J. Lueders, during a change of command ceremony on USAG Grafenwoehr's parade field June 14. The ceremony was highlighted by the National Anthem being played on a saxophone by Sgt. 1st Class Nijel Rawlins, from the 574th Quartermaster Company.

Staff photos by Bilyana Atova



Team work vital for command relationship

Team work is the element that makes or breaks a command relationship. The “how” of working together has kept many good commanders and first sergeants baffled. In some cases, attempts at working together failed because there was not mutual cooperation.

There has to be a bond between these two leaders before they can form their team. Bond building can be done by working on five elements: relationship, responsibilities, loyalty, duty, and goals.

Relationship

The commander and first sergeant relationship has to be one of mutual understanding and respect. They must share experiences and ideas both good and bad. They must take each other into consideration and give honest responses.



Openness leads to proper sharing between the team. Friendship is also important. Not buddy-buddy, but one personal concern for each other and their family.

The commander and the first sergeant must understand each other’s hobbies and what’s important in our lives outside the Army. This helps to better understand where the other is coming from.

Responsibilities

These are well defined in AR 600-20. The commander is responsible for everything and the first sergeant implements. Share tasks. Do it in any manner that is comfortable for both leaders.

As a first sergeant, you should take the task of monitoring weight control, the PT program, awards and NCOERs and building and lawn maintenance.

With the war on terrorism, you also have to be involved on individual training and advise the commanders on the warrior tasks and battle drills.

The commander’s main focus is on training. These may seem like the traditional roles but the most important point is that we divide the responsibility and share the load.

Loyalty

This is the element that bonds the team. Loyalty to and from each other must run deep. There must be unquestionable loyalty between the commander and the first sergeant. They must understand and support each other. Openly discuss problems we have and don’t back stab or back-door each other.

Duty

This is professionalism at its best. I refer to Gen. MacArthur’s speech “Duty, Honor, Country.” Both the commander and first sergeant must be truly professional and set high standards.

It’s not uncommon for a command team to come to work early and stay late. One element that cases tensions early on is to know you can call on each other at any time and receive

full support until mission complete.

Goals

Short term goals must be established early along with the long term goals. These goals could last into the next change of command. But setting these goals pay off.

A command team forms if a commander and first sergeant work out the five elements discussed. That team has sense of direction and duty built on mutual trust and will assist each other in accomplishing their mission.

In addition, it will be a Soldier-to-Soldier relationship that lasts throughout your military career as well as your personal lives.

The team attitude will allow you both to lead your company and successfully take care of your Soldiers and lead them where you want them to go.

CSM Jose Santos
U.S. Army
Garrison Hohenfels



Photo by Paul Boehm

Matheson awarded ‘Bavarian Lion’

USAG-Hohenfels Commander Lt. Col. James V. Matheson was awarded the Bayerischer Loewe (Bavarian Lion) by the Staatssekretar Hans Spitzner, the State Secretary of the Bavarian Government Ministry in Munich, during a special ceremony in Velburg June 6.

The Bavarian Lion is a special award rarely presented to Americans. Matheson was recognized for his exceptional efforts in promoting and improving the relationship between the Hohenfels military community and the surrounding German communities. According to the Government Relations Office in Grafenwoehr, Matheson is the second American military recipient with only General Guy C. Swan, former commanding general of the 7th Army Training Command, being recognized more than four years ago.

Cub Scouts hold Egyptian-themed summer camp

by **ANDREA NEILL**
Special to the Bavarian News

Are you and your son trying to find a way to fill your free time this summer break? Hohenfels Cub Scout Pack 303 has the perfect filler.

All boys (currently in kindergarten through fourth grade) in Hohenfels and the surrounding areas are invited to attend Day Camp in Hohenfels July 10-13, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

This year’s theme is “Land of the Pharaohs” and is guaranteed to be a great time.

On tap for all of the boys and volunteers attending include archery and BB gun ranges, arts and crafts, science and nature activities, scouting skills, and our concluding event will be a “race down the Nile” with each boy racing a boat he has built throughout the week.

“This is a very exciting opportunity for all Cub Scouts, but especially for our Cubbies here in Hohenfels because there has not been a day camp here for four years,” said Andrea Neill, the pack committee chair and day camp director.

Not only is the day camp a way to keep the Scouting program going throughout the summer, but it also offers Cub Scouts the opportunity to receive awards in two events that can only be earned at Boy Scout of America events. Archery and BB gun ranges can only take place at sponsored events where trained adults run the ranges according to the Boy Scouts of America standards.

And the fun does not stop with the

boys. The Hohenfels Day Camp will also offer Sibling Dens, for the siblings of registered Scouts attending camp, and a Tot Lot for the little guys. The Sibling Dens will move around day camp just as the Cub Scout Dens.

And the fun does not stop with the kids...Adult volunteers at the camp will have the opportunity to be a kid themselves for the week. This camp can truly feel like a family camp. The day camp is run completely by fun-loving and dedicated volunteers to the Cub Scouting program and to our children.

The Transatlantic Council has set the day camp cost at \$55 per registered Scout, with all of the registration fees going directly to the activities of the camp and not to the Pack itself.

For the Sibling Dens, with range activities, the cost is also \$55. If parents do not feel comfortable with the siblings taking part in the ranges, a \$30 fee will allow the siblings to enjoy all that day camp has to offer without the range activities.

All fees will have an additional fee of \$10 if registering after June.

Tot Lot spaces are provided for the adult volunteers for their little ones to be able to be close to mom or dad, with no fee. There are many opportunities for adult volunteers, and if we are not able to fill all of these positions the camp will not be able to take place.

If you would like more information about the Day Camp and registration, or Cub Scouts in general, contact Andrea Neill at cubscoutsinohenfels@yahoo.com.

Hohenfels’ sixth grade class newest D.A.R.E. graduates

Story and photo by GARRY BARROWS
Staff writer

D.A.R.E. stands for Drug Abuse Resistance Education.

It also stands for a very committed group of Hohenfels Elementary School students, members of Jennifer Remoy’s and Vickie Krouse’s sixth grade classes, who were celebrated during the D.A.R.E. graduation ceremony held at the Post Theatre June 8.

Hohenfels School Resource Officer and D.A.R.E. Officer Sgt. Benjamin Roche headed up the 10-week program that included textbook study and essay preparation as well as the creation, rehearsing, and performance of skits and plays.

“I enjoyed it,” Roche said, “it was

the best experience of my life. The D.A.R.E. program is outstanding as it produces smart, courageous and informed young adults able to think for themselves.”

Chaplain (Maj.) Gail Porter was the guest speaker.

She encouraged the graduating students to remain firm in their commitment and to the oath they took in front of all who attended.

She also noted the decision making model based on the D.A.R.E. acronym: Define, Assess, Respond, and Evaluate. By using this model to analyze any situation especially drug or alcohol issues, graduates can make their best decisions.

A major program assignment to students was to write an essay on how the D.A.R.E. program and philosophy has affected them.

The essays written by Shannon Ruiz and Julian Battley were judged the winners and the authors read them to the audience.

USAG Hohenfels Commander James V. Matheson and USAG Hohenfels Command Sgt. Maj. Donald L. Battle presented awards to all the graduates.

The commander congratulated the graduates and offered advice on using their well-earned knowledge.

There was a scene concerning confrontation during a D.A.R.E. skit at the Hohenfels graduation ceremony June 8 at the Post Theatre.



Hohenfels’ Bailey named Soldier of Year

by GARRY BARROWS
Staff writer

Pfc. Jarrod Bailey, a chaplain’s assistant in USAG Hohenfels, was named the IMCOM Europe Soldier of the Year at a ceremony in Heidelberg June 12.

The awards ceremony was the culmination of three days of spirited competition held in Stuttgart in late May.

During the competition, each of the six noncommissioned officers and five enlisted Soldier of the Year candidates were given a comprehensive evaluation of skills ranging from physical fitness to military knowledge, including land navigation exercises, weapons qualification, and written exams, along with a surprise road march thrown in.

Bailey, originally from Canton, Mich., was surprised by the overall sequence of events.

It all started more than a year ago in a room in the HHQ when the detachment sergeant, Sgt. 1st Class Richard Fabergast, told Bailey that he was “going to the boards next week.”

So Bailey did some reading and studying while getting his Class A uniform in perfect

condition. “Pfc. Bailey reporting to the President of the Board.”

“Get the heck out of here,” responded Fabergast, who was presiding over of the USAG Hohenfels Soldier of the Month board.

“It turns out I didn’t say it loud enough,” Bailey explained of his surprising first exposure to such an appearance.

Once past that first hurdle, he said the board grilled him for more than 90 minutes.

“My whole idea is to be the best you can be and it seemed this opportunity would take me towards that. The whole thing went from an experience to a competition,” Bailey continued.

“I really did it to make a good impression on my leaders.”

About to commemorate the two-year anniversary of his Army enlistment, Bailey is looking forward to moving up the leadership ladder.

“I want to help others be the best they can be. You want to be able to help those who were where I was,” he said.

The road to Bailey’s Soldier of the Year honor started with Fabergast’s board and then progressed to the Soldier of the Quarter with USAG Hohenfels Command Sgt. Maj. Donald

Battle presiding.

“Pfc. Bailey showed a lot of poise,” Battle said.

“He presented himself in a truly outstanding manner along with two other Soldiers he was competing against. Pfc. Bailey will no doubt represent IMCOM-Europe well.”

The Bavaria area Soldier of the Year Board was next and then to the IMCOM-Europe Soldier of the Year competition that presented Bailey with his special designation.

“It’s kind of like the movie ‘Any Given Sunday.’ Whoever wants it the most,” said Command Sgt. Maj. John Gaines, “We test what they know and what they think they know.”

USAG Commander Lt. Col. James V. Matheson was effusive in his reaction.

“I can’t think of a more deserving Soldier to win this award than Pfc. Bailey,” Matheson said.

“He puts 100 percent effort into everything he does, every day. From morning PT runs, to his excellent work in the chaplain’s office without any NCO to supervise him, to preparing himself to attend the Special Forces Qualification Course, this Soldier stands head and shoulders above his peers.”

Although Bailey is looking forward to leadership roles, he is, at least for now, only interested in noncommissioned leadership.

“I want to work with Soldiers. I want to be a Soldier,” he said.

Bailey will represent IMCOM-Europe at the IMCOM world-wide competition scheduled to be held at Fort A. P. Hill in Virginia.



Courtesy photo

Bailey completed land navigation exercises as part of the Soldier of the Year competition.

Community teams up to offer summer programs

by ALFONZO WALKER
Special to the Bavarian News

There is a lot to do this summer in Hohenfels. Child and Youth Services has a selection of youth specialty camps and trips scheduled throughout the 2007 school break.

The events are scheduled to start on in mid-June and will run the duration of the summer, with a finale including a teen dance and lock-in at the middle school/teen facility Aug. 24.

The CYS staff has designed their programs so that participants will experience activities in each of the CYS four service areas: sports and fitness, life skills and citizenship, leisure and recreation, and mentoring and support services.

CYS summer events include activities planned for our community’s younger members attending the Child Development Center.

The CDC will conduct daily activities consisting of games and other experiences, including on-post trips, bowling, story telling experiences at the library, and wet and wild swim day on Fridays.

School Age Services is offering youth currently in first through sixth grades weekly specialty camps with themes titled Creations and Imaginations, Playtimes and Pastimes, Life Skills and Survival, and Computers and Technology.

During these camps, youth will have hands-on experiences and participate in a Junior Idol and Talent Show, photography, jewelry making, cooking, woodworking, land navigation, and an assortment of other activities including sports.

Youth enrolled in SAS camps are automatically registered to participate in all Youth Sports camps without any additional costs.

In addition to the SAS camp activities, youth will take part in adventurous trips to exciting and fun-fill places such as the Amberg pool, Pottenstein caves and fish hatchery, Nuremburg sea life aquarium and playground, scavenger hunt and train ride, Palm Beach pool, Bodenmais mines, Playmobil Fun Park, Legoland, skating, and other educational and thrilling adventures.

Kids will not want to miss these exciting

experiences!

The middle school/teen program is offering a variety of travel opportunities that include overnight stays in neighboring European countries.

These expeditions provide teens the opportunity to experience the local culture and visit historical landmarks at an affordable price.

Our scheduled voyages include swimming and water ski trip, Holiday Park, white water rafting, Six Flags in Belgium, Mannheim shopping trip, Vicenza, Venice, and Prague. Parents, do not wait, sign your teen up early.

All trips are space available!

Army Community Service will be offering an extensive newcomer orientation in August with the five-day Hallo Hohenfels for adults and special sessions for children and young adults in three separate groups, grades 1-3, 4-6 and 7-12 each with specially designed activities to acquaint families with the post and surrounding area.

Contact ACS at DSN 466-4860.

Youth in first through sixth grades can

expand their individual sports skills by attending Youth Sports summer camps.

The camps are noncompetitive, with a focus on developing individualized skills.

Our two-week sports camps include activities offered during our regular sports seasons, and extramural sports such as softball, wrestling, volleyball, bowling, track and field, and tennis. During the morning hours, a staff member will accompany youth enrolled in SAS to the respective sports camps.

Additionally, the Community Religious Support Office will be conducting a Vacation Bible School this summer for children entering pre-school through entering sixth grade. The Religious Support Office invites all children to saddle up and join them for VBS, “Avalanche Ranch” theme.

VBS is Aug. 6-10, 9 a.m.–12:30 p.m. at Nainhof Chapel. Call Hilltop Chapel Center at CIV 09472-83-1570 for more information.

For additional information about CYS summer programs or other services, contact the CLEOS office at CIV 09472-83-2078/2080.

Groundbreaking ceremony held for new units at Sunrise Lodge

by JOELYN KNAPEK
Special to the Bavarian News

A groundbreaking ceremony for the new Army Lodging Facility at USAG Hohenfels was held June 11.

Patrick M. Roybal, US Army Corps of Engineers, Europe District served as the guest speaker for the ceremony.

A plaque representing a shovel to commemorate the ground breaking was presented to Lt. Col. James V. Matheson, Commander, USAG Hohenfels, and Joelyn Knappek, the Sunrise Lodge manager.

This new \$1.5 million nine-unit official lodging facility will support the travel needs of Soldiers, civilians, and Families on permanent change of station and temporary duty personnel.

The new hotel will feature nine extended-stay family rooms.

Each guest room will have a queen-sized bed, private bath and shower and tub facilities, kitchenettes, and built-in closets.

The rooms will also be equipped with telephone and data port, in-room safe, and cable television.

The new building will include conference and training room, guest and in-house laundry areas, back of

the house maintenance and facility storage, and additional parking spaces.

The hotel will reflect the new Unified Facilities Criteria for Anti-Terrorism.

This new criteria means incorporating laminated windows, set-backs from roads and other buildings, and restricted access through the use of electronic key locks for guest room and all exterior guest entrances.

Lodging is available to all active-duty military members and their Families, DoD civilians, and retirees.

Reservations are accepted for personnel on orders 180 days prior to their expected arrival.

Estimated completion date for the new addition is September 2008.

The Sunrise Lodge is one of 93 mid-scale limited service lodging facilities worldwide that includes approximately 4,000 employees.

It is one of the first Wellness Projects in Europe.

Several others will be completed throughout Europe over the next few years, including: Wiesbaden, Grafenwoehr, Stuttgart, Belgium, and Ansbach.



Photo by Norbert Wittl

Lt. Col. James V. Matheson and Sunrise Lodge Manager Joelyn Knappek perform groundbreaking tasks for the expansion project.

Wood new pastor for Protestant chapel

by GARRY BARROWS
Staff writer

Barely a week goes by at Hohenfels that the comings and goings of Army life, whether it is a PCS, transfer, or promotion, doesn’t make an appearance.

The transfer of Chaplain (Maj.) Brad Baumann to be the Executive Officer to the USAREUR Head of Chaplains has brought Chaplain (Maj.) Michael Wood and his family to post as Protestant Chapel Pastor.

Originally Wood was assigned to the Executive Officer position Baumann was assigned.

“God cursed me with the gift of administration and I would have handled it, but mostly I am called to preach and teach,” Wood explained.

“So I am really looking forward to being the Hohenfels pastor.”

Wood had been in Friedburg, west



Wood

of Frankfort, serving as the brigade chaplain for the Ready First Combat Team, since his return from a 14-month deployment to Iraq ending in February of this year.

In Iraq, Wood was the brigade combat team chaplain supervising 11 chaplains and 11 chaplain assistants in their various responsibilities.

Even with that considerable duty, Wood conducted Sunday services for the troops as well as conducted a weeknight small group meeting.

While Wood is excited by the prospect of being the pastor, he sees his first challenge as being the pastoral transition itself.

“It’s always difficult even in the military where change and movements like the one going on now are a part of military life,” Wood said.

Wood, along with wife Kathy and their three children Michael, Mandy, and Christy, are anxious to settle down here.

In fact, Wood has already adapted his Biblical life theme as a goal for his time on post.

“Seek ye first the kingdom of God in Hohenfels.”

Welcome Chaplain Wood and family!

Hohenfels Class of 2007



Esselyn Julianna
Andino



Nathaniel
Apodaca



Kristen Elizabeth
Arnold



Jose Alberto
Rivera Arroyo



Tristan Alexandra
Artman



Lyndy Ellis Axon



Sung Kyan Byon



Christopher
Michael
Cavanaugh



William Arlington
Chewning



Anthony
Colantuono Jr.



ShaNonte' Kyntrel
Davis



Bertram Ignatius
Denson Jr.



Robert Allen
Dunwoody



Alexander
Manfred Elliott



Vincent Andrew
Elmore



Ta'hiri Virginia
Fry



Marc Girault



Jessica Lynlee
Grazier



Meghan
Josephine Greene



Charlotte Justine
Hatch



Morgan Justine
Helbling



Michael Alexander
Herzig



Derrick Jones



Alexander
Patrick LeMasters



Anthony Augusto
Marshall



Brandon Montrell
Merriweather



Rachel Michelle
Milock



Tony Lee Mower



Mica Kelsey
Nicholson



Kenneth Edward
Oberlin



Raymond Eric
Odum



Jennifer Diane
Pietras



Hannah Elizabeth
Porter



Christopher
Thomas Redmond



Gina Reinick



Kevin Craig
Simpson



Cheryl Aigner
Singleton



Idrissa Soumaoro



Vanessa Sharee
Turner



Eric Thomas
Vandal



The Hohenfels High School graduation ceremony took place at Kreuth's Ostbayernhalle June 8. There were 37 graduates in the Class of 2007.

Courtesy photo

Community Spotlight

What's Happening

Grafenwoehr/
Vilseck BriefsNew V Corps deputy
commander announced

Col. (Promotable) Stephen R. Lanza Jr., chief, Joint Capabilities Division, J-8, The Joint Staff, Washington, D.C. to deputy commander, V Corps, U.S. Army Europe and Seventh Army. Lanza was previously announced for deputy chief, legislative liaison, Office of the Secretary of the Army, Washington, D.C.

Homeschool meeting Friday

An informational meeting for new and interested homeschoolers will be held Friday at the Vilseck ACS 9-11 a.m. Some of the questions that will be answered are:

- What is homeschooling?
 - What about socialization?
 - How do I get started?
 - What are the requirements?
 - How do I chose a curriculum?
 - Where can I get a curriculum?
 - Can I homeschool a child that learns differently or has special needs?
 - What about grades, report cards, testing, and graduation?
 - Will there be a problem if I want to put my kids in DoDDs / public school ?
- Used Curriculum Sale: Come and buy used materials or sell your own. Tables available on first come first serve basis. Contact : Dawn Sovinsky, CIV 09608-923-733.

Quarterly trainings set

The next quarterly Subversion and Espionage Directed against the Army and Security Education Training Awareness training session for the Grafenwoehr and Vilseck communities will be conducted on July 18. This training is a mandatory annual requirement for all DOD personnel including military, AF/NAF (both US and LN). Session schedules are as follows:

Grafenwoehr (Tower Theater, Bldg. 620)

9-10:30 a.m. (U.S. employees)
11 a.m.-noon (LN employees)
Vilseck (Post Theater, Bldg. 354)
1-2:30 p.m. (U.S. employees)
3-4 p.m. (LN employees)

Due to seating limitations at these facilities, 2SCR personnel are requested to contact the Regimental S2 for training times and locations for your organization.

Proper approval needed for
home based business

If you live in government leased housing and would like to have a home-based business, please ensure you have approval for your business. Contact Commercial Affairs Officer Sieglinde Schedl at DSN 475-6753, Bldg. 244 Grafenwoehr, and get more information about home-based business.

Attention creditors and
debtors of Sgt. Gilbert

Any local creditors or debtors of Sgt. Jonathon Gilbert should immediately contact Lt. Evans at DSN 476-5277 or DSN 476-5120.

2SCR run slated Friday

Friday: This Regimental Run will be their last one before deploying to Iraq. The purpose of the run is to build unit esprit de corps as a single Regiment among Soldiers and their families.

The Squadrons will form up in front of the Regimental HQ at 7:30 a.m.; the Regimental Commanding Officer will address the Regiment and present awards.

The Regimental Run will begin at 8 a.m. At the end of the run the Regimental Commander and CSM will review Squadron formations as they pass in front of the Regimental Headquarters. Show your support along the run route. POC: Maj. Pendell, DSN 476-5031.

VFW Post 10692 Grand
Opening at Grafenwoehr

July 4: Open to all, come and join the VFW Post 10692 for there Grand Opening on USAG Grafenwoehr Post, Bldg. 505.

Free food from 12 - 6 p.m., have a great time, meet with the Post members and come see our new Post home. Their will be some games and prizes to be won and you can learn more about the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Do not have to be a member to attend this event but if you have question on who can join, we will have the answers there for you.

Fourth of July celebrations
set at Vilseck Army Airfield

Soldiers, Families, and guests are invited to celebrate at the Vilseck Army Airfield from 3 -11 p.m.

All day, enjoy pay-as-you-go food, refreshments, and attractions when you buy a bracelet (\$5 for adults and \$3 for children 12 and under).

Musical entertainment, general access, and fireworks are free.

A free shuttle bus will run from locations at Vilseck and Graf.

Wear your red, white and blue to this truly patriotic event!

ODR, ITR offer trips to
explore Europe in a group

Call Vilseck ITR DSN 476-2360 or Grafenwoehr ODR 475-7402

July 5-8: Prague, Czech Republic, sign-up now

July 8: Kaltenberg Fest

ODR Trips:

Saturday-Sunday: Hut hiking in Garmisch

July 4: Bike Tour to Regensburg

July 5: Vilseck to Nuernberg bike tour

July 7: Klettersteig Alpine climbing

Graf and Vilseck CDC offer
kindergarten camps

Looking for something for your kindergartner to do this summer? Grafenwoehr and Vilseck Child Development Centers have space available in our dynamic summer camps for 6-year-olds.

Camp schedule includes field trips, special events and fun-packed days designed to keep your child's mind and body active all summer long.

For more information or to sign-up, contact CYS Central Registration at Graf, DSN 475-6656 or Vilseck, DSN 476-2760.

ACAP hosts VA briefing

Are you separating or retiring from the Army soon? The Army Career and Alumni Program can help you in making your career decisions. ACAP Services include: mandatory pre-separation brief, transition assistance workshop, resume classes, job assistance training, and individual counseling. Spouses are eligible for ACAP services as well. Call DSN 476-2055 today.

Tomorrow: VA Briefing: 8 a.m. to noon at Bldg. 700 room 7

B.O.S.S. goes to Austria

Saturday-Sunday: Join Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers as they go to Nature Pur Austria for a weekend of whitewater rafting and canyoning. Call the B.O.S.S. president at DSN 475-6116 for more information.

2SCR predeployment fair

July 11-13: Open to all 2 SCR Soldiers and family members preparing for deployment. Service agencies from USAG Grafenwoehr will be on hand to discuss program offerings, advice and answer any questions you may have concerning your upcoming deployment. Call ACS at DSN 476-2650 or CIV 09662-83-2650 for more information. Recommended unit attendance times are as follows:

- Fire Squadron: July 11, 11:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
- 1/2, 2/2, 3/2 SCR: July 12, 9 a.m.-7 p.m.
- 4/2 SCR, RSS, RHHT: July 13, 9 a.m.-7 p.m.

Vilseck play morning
cancelled until August

July 1-31: Play morning at the Vilseck Chapel has been cancelled for the month of July and will resume in August. Call ACS for more information DSN 476-2650, CIV 09662 83 2650.

DPW to close July 6

July 6: The USAG Grafenwoehr DPW will be closed for the annual works outings. This includes the DPW Buildings located in Vilseck, the Grafenwoehr and Vilseck Housing Offices, and the Furniture Warehouse in Eschenbach.

Only the Buildings and Grounds operation in Vilseck will be open that day. We apologize for any inconveniences. Only emergency services will be available.

7A/JMTC safety office
announces closure

July 13: The 7A/JMTC Safety Office, located in Bldg 540, will be closed for their annual works outing.

Summer classes offered at
the Vilseck Chapel

Now – Aug. 14: Come join us every Tuesday for our summer classes at the Vilseck Chapel. We have three studies, “Chazown”, “Twelve Extraordinary Women”, and a Nichole Johnson video series.

Teufelshoehle (“Devil’s
Cave”) in Pottenstein

Saturday: It's time to feel “The Power of the Night” at the magnificent and mysterious Teufelshoehle (“Devil's Cave”) in Pottenstein.

The entrance area of the cave will be the staging ground for more than a dozen DJs and live performers who will spin their turntables and play their beats on three dance floors.

Parking and shuttle service is available from Wannberg (Route B 470). For more information, please go to: <http://www.bareith.de/mdn>.

Looking for a place to
conduct training?

Why not contact your local Joint Multinational Training Command Digital Training Facility? Every facility has several air-conditioned classrooms with 16 multi-media computer workstations with internet access and video teletraining capability.

These classrooms are also ideal for individuals seeking a quiet place to work on-line on self-development courses. For more information, contact your local DTF manager at the following numbers:

■ Grafenwoehr DTF – DSN 474-2381 – CIV 09641-454-2381 – Location: Bldg. 3144, Camp Normandy

■ Vilseck DTF– DSN 476-3758 – CIV 09662-83-3758 – Location: Bldg. 355, Rose Barracks.

AAFES seeking employees
for September PX opening

Our Human Resources Office is now taking applications for the new PX. We will have 25 positions open for help setting up the store. This is a great opportunity in getting involved in the set up of your new store and being paid to do it.

Stop by the Grafenwoehr HR office in Bldg. 533. They are open Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. HRO DSN 475-7707; CIV 09641-3392.

Visit <http://odin.aafes.com/employment/default.asp>, click on entry-level, click on Europe, and then click on Grafenwoehr. You will see all the current openings for the three Exchanges.

Local training available

The Civilian Human Resource Agency Europe, Human Resource Development Division offers professional development and training opportunities at various locations in Europe.

The courses are open to DA civilians, LN's, and military. The tuition cost is free for these courses.

To check out more about the kind of training offered, course descriptions and schedule, go to our Web site <http://cpolrhp.belvoir.army.mil/eur/index.htm>.

- Upcoming courses:
- July 17-20, Report Writing, Grafenwoehr
- July 30-31, Communication Skills, Grafenwoehr
- Aug. 1-2, Presentating Statistics Using Charts & Graphics, Grafenwoehr,
- Aug. 14-16, Basic English Writing Skills, Grafenwoehr

Seats at the Digital Training Facility is limited to 16 persons only. Military members are encouraged to attend.

Emperor Castle concerts
held through July

Now - July: Classic's with candle-light at the Knight's Hall. Hoertnagel.konzert@t-online.de.

VBS dates announced

Group's Holy Land Adventure, Galilee-by-the-Sea. Join us for Vacation Bible School at the Grafenwoehr Chapel Aug. 6-10 6–8 p.m. Families, singles, all ages are welcome.

Contact Dimice Perry for more information or to volunteer dimice.h.perry@us.army.mil or CIV 0961/4019871.

Registration information will be in the next issue of the Bavarian News. To find out more about this program, visit group's Web site at <http://www.groupvbs.com/2007/vbs-GalileeNew/index.asp>.

Hohenfels
BriefsHealth clinic announces
hours for sports physicals

The health clinic will be holding Saturday clinic hours from 8-11 a.m. on July 14 and Aug. 25 for CYS and high school sports physicals.

Note that these days are specifically for sports physicals and not for yearly school or CDC physicals or for well-baby/children appointments. Call DSN 466-1750 to schedule your appointment.

Sure Start program at HES

Hohenfels Elementary School is now accepting applications for the 2007-2008 school year. If you have a child who is four or will be four by October 31, 2007 and you are an E4 or lower in rank, come by the elementary school and fill out an application.

At this time all we need is your LES and the application. Priority will be given to E-1 to E-4 or GS-1 to GS-4. Those with the greatest need using a criteria list will be considered.

E-5/GS-5 to E-9/GS-9 and above may apply and be given consideration by the selection committee only if space is available. For more information, call DSN 466- 2729 or CIV 09472-83-2729.

Hohenfels MSF Motorcycle
Safety Class held Tuesday

Notice: for all motorcycle riders with MSF cards due to expire, The Monday MSF class is now full. We will now take MSF reservations for the Tuesday MSF class 9 a.m.-4 p.m., at Camp Albertshof, Hardstand #3. The TMP Drivers Testing Station will not renew your USAREUR Drivers License (for Class 1 motor-cycles) without a current MSF card, completed within the last three years. POC: Hohenfels Garrison Safety Office, DSN 466-1670.

Beware: fireworks not
allowed on economy

All parents should be aware that the use of fireworks are not allowed on the German economy (except New Years Eve). Please enjoy the professional fireworks exhibition for the 4th of July celebration on post at a safe distance.

Girl Scouts looking for
volunteers to help out

Hohenfels Girl Scouts is now looking for volunteers for the next school year.

We are in need of adult volunteers for the following positions: event coordinator, publicity, cookie manager, hut manager, German/American liaison, and a Web site designer, as well as leaders for Brownie age level (1st-3rd grade) and Cadette age level (6th-8th grades).

You don't have to have a daughter in Girl Scouts to make a difference in a girl's life! For more information, e-mail hohenfels.girlscouts@yahoo.com or Mary Fitter at CIV 09472-911-289.

Post speed limits reduced

The speed limit from Gate #1 along Patton drive to the Commissary turn at Linderberg Road is now 30 km per hour Monday through Friday during PT times (approximately 6-8 a.m.). The signs will be changed from 50 km to 30 km before 6 a.m. and then be returned to 50 km after 8 a.m. However, the posted speed is always the one that will be enforced so pay attention to the speed limit signs regardless of the time of day.

The speed limit from the intersection of Patton Road and Linderberg Road (often referred to as the Commissary Road) through to the end of the Keltenwall Housing Area is now permanently 30 km per hour.

The speed limit from the Post Gym to ACP #4 (5 corners near Camp Albertshof) is now permanently 30 km per hour.

All members of the community are reminded to obey all traffic signs. Speed limits are clearly marked. Essentially, the entire cantonment area (except for the gate #2 road) will now be a 30 KM zone from 6-8 a.m. Monday through Friday. Additionally, even though speeds have been reduced to 30 KM throughout the cantonment area, drivers are still required to slow to 10 MPH when passing troops running or marching on the road regardless of the time of day or posted speed limit.

APO closure announced

The APO will be closed on Friday for our annual Organization Day. Normal operations will resume on Monday.

Sunrise Yoga and Pilates
session starts July 10

Start your day energized, strong, and limber with the Sunrise Yoga and Pilates - Summer Session July 10-Aug. 16 Tuesdays and Thursdays 6-7 a.m. in the Post Gym.

Class will incorporate traditional Yoga with classic Pilates to stretch, realign, tone, and tighten the entire body. Only \$60 for 12 sessions. Must pre-pay at the Post Gym, Bldg. 88 by Sunday in order for the class to take place. Sign-up early, registration is limited to 12 people. For more information contact the Post Gym at DSN 466-2883.

CDC sponsors Thursday
morning walk to the library

Kindervillage trip to the Library! Reading is a fundamental part of your child's learning process. The Hohenfels Child Development Center wants to encourage your child's interest in learning about topics through reading.

Each week our Kindervillage CDC class will select a special book for “Story Hour” and classroom discussion. Parents are always welcomed! Interested?

Call DSN 466-4707/4706.

Customs forms needed
before visitors can drive

If you have friends and relatives that are planning to visit you here in Germany and would like to drive your USAREUR-plated car, go to the local customs office in advance and obtain the respective customs form.

What we need in order to fill out the form is the sponsor's ID card, the vehicle registration, the visitor's passport (copy is enough), and a copy of the visitor's driving license.

Make sure your guests get an international driver's license in the United States, otherwise, they will need a certified German translation of the stateside driver's license (which costs between 30 and 40 Euros and takes up to one week to obtain).

For more information, contact the Customs Field Office Hohenfels in Bldg. 10, Rm. 118 at DSN 466-2012 or 2745.

Office hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to noon and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and closed on U.S. holidays.

Summer sporting camps set

Youth Sports Camps will begin Monday. Camps will be offered to youth that have just completed first-eighth grade.

For school age children (first-sixth grade) camps are: July 2-13 - flag football, July 16-27 - soccer, July 30-Aug. 10 - basketball/cheerleading, and Aug. 13-25 - bowling. Cost for camps (first-sixth grade): \$20.

Middle school (seventh and eighth grade) camps are: July 2-13 - flag football/volleyball, July 16-27 - soccer, July 30-Aug. 10 - basketball/cheerleading, and Aug. 13-25 - baseball/softball. Cost for camps (seventh and eighth grade): \$10.

Register your youth at CLEOS, Bldg. 96. For more information on camps, call DSN: 466-2488/2558.

Chaplain Happenings

■ **H20 Discipleship Group** for teens in junior high or high school meets Thursday evenings at 5 p.m. The current theme is relationships. POC is Chris Howard, Club Beyond representative, at DSN 466-4793 or CIV 09472-834793.

■ **Christ's Commandos (C2)** is church just for kids. We meet in the Post Theater on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sundays of the month, 10:45 a.m.- noon. We have skits, puppets, music, and games.

■ **Young adults** who have already graduated from high school and are working in the community are invited to Bible study, a relaxed atmosphere, and a home cooked meal each Tuesday evening at Bldg. 743, across from the Commissary.

Call Chaplain Bradford Baumann at DSN 466-1570 or CIV 09472-831570 for more information.

■ **Catholic Women of the Chapel** meet for Bible study Thursday mornings from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the Hilltop Chapel Center. For more information, call the Catholic Office at DSN 466-2226 or CIV 09472-83-2226.

What’s Happening

Ansbach Briefs

Safety Day set for Tuesday

The USAG Ansbach Safety Office hosts a Safety Day Tuesday at 9 a.m. at the Barton Barracks Gymnasium. The event features a blurred vision goggles demonstration that shows what it is like to drive while intoxicated, fire extinguisher handling training, child seat safety demonstrations and vehicle safety briefings. A video on water safety, “Why People Drown,” will also be played. For more on Safety Day, call DSN 468-1670 or CIV 0981-183-1670.

Don’t miss July 4th events

USAG Ansbach hosts its 4th of July Celebration July 4 from 11 a.m. to about 10:15 p.m. outside of the Apache Club at Storck Barracks in Illesheim. The event will feature carnival rides, game booths, food and beverages, face painting, arts and crafts, and pie eating, frozen T-shirt and beer mug-holding contests. The Donny Vox Variety Band will perform from 6-10 p.m. and there will be fireworks at 10 p.m. For more info on the event, call DSN 467-2921 or CIV 09802-83-2921.

Vehicle registration closed

The USAG Ansbach Vehicle Registration Office will be closed Friday for annual inventory. The office will re-open Monday with normal hours. For more information, call DSN 468-7892 or CIV 0981-183-892.

Bank closures announced

The Community Bank in Illesheim will close for training July 11 from 9 a.m. to noon and be open from noon to 4 p.m. The Illesheim Bank will also close on Tuesday and July 5 to swap out all furniture. July 4, the bank will open for teller and cash services only from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. to support the garrison 4th of July Celebration. For more information, call the bank at DSN 467-4540 or CIV 09841-8791.

New immunization guidelines set for schools

New immunization requirements were put into effect at the beginning of this past school year, said the Ansbach Middle/High School Nurse, Michele George. She said the Hepatitis A vaccine is now available but that parents need to ensure their children have the first dose administered by the start of next school year in order to attend. She said parents need to take their children’s immunization record to their local medical treatment facility for review to ensure that they can provide the school with an up-to-date copy no later than Aug. 27—the first day of the next school term. Most students will only need their first dose of Hepatitis A administered as they should be up to date on all other immunizations. If they have already received their first dose and six months have passed since it was administered, the second dose should be administered prior to Aug. 27. Also, for children who haven’t had Chickenpox, the Center for Disease Control recommends that students who received one dose of Varicella vaccine prior to age 13 should now receive a second dose to provide immunity into adulthood. For more info, call George at DSN 467-2519 or CIV 09802-83-2519.

Free bowling offered

The Katterbach Bowling Center offers free bowling to military identification card holders the second and last Thursday of each month from 3-10 p.m. The Illesheim Bowling Center offers free bowling the first and third Wednesday of the month. The offers do not include shoe rentals. Morale, Welfare and Recreation offers the free bowling as a way of supporting Soldiers and family members during the upcoming deployment. For more info, call the Katterbach center at DSN 467-2638 or CIV 09802-83-2638, or the Illesheim center at DSN 467-4530 or CIV 09841-83-4530.

Book Club meets today

Everyone is welcome to join the Community Book Club. Selected books are available at the Bleidorn Library. Members meet about once a month for a lively discussion and refreshments

at various locations in the Brucken Center. The next meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. today. For more information, call DSN 467-3312 or CIV 09802-83-3312.

Keichu Do classes offered

SKIES Unlimited offers Keichu Do classes in the evening at Storck Barracks in Illesheim and Barton Barracks in Ansbach for people ages 6-18 years. Instructor Patricia Sant offers instruction in the martial art Keichu Do—closely related to American boxing and French Savate (kickboxing). It also includes techniques from Jiu-Jitsu, Judo, Kung Fu, Karate and Cajun fist fighting. The primary objective of the class is self defense with practical, no-nonsense techniques. Cost for the class is \$35. For more, call Bryan Osewalt at DSN 467-4703 or CIV 09841-83-4703.

Vacation Bible School set

The USAG Ansbach chaplain’s office hosts Vacation Bible School on Katterbach Kaserne and Storck Barracks in August. The school will be held Aug. 6-10 at the Illesheim Chapel and Aug. 13-17 at the Katterbach Chapel. For more information on Vacation Bible School, call John Edwards at DSN 467-2685 or CIV 09802-832-685.

Underground holds auditions for live entertainment

The Underground club on Bismarck Kaserne is looking for bands to provide live entertainment. The club is interested in all types of musical formats such as rock, rhythm and blues, blues, etc. To set up an audition, call Daniel Cooper at DSN 467-2935 or CIV 09802-832-935 or CIV 0175-805-3213. Also, the Underground hosts Country and Western Music Night every Friday from 2-10 p.m.

ACAP counseling available

Soldiers who have been extended due to a deployment, and who anticipate separating from active duty shortly after reintegration, are required to receive Army Career and Alumni Program pre-separation counseling prior to the deployment. Pre-separation counseling is available by appointment for individuals or groups. Call DSN 467-3312 for more information.

Portrait studio now open

Cobbled Corner Crafts includes a portrait studio that specializes in family and baby portraits. The studio is open Thursdays 3-8 p.m., Fridays noon-5 p.m., the first Saturday of each month 10 a.m.-6 p.m., and the third Sunday of each month 10 a.m.-6 p.m. For more info, call DSN 468-7627 or CIV 0981-183-627.

ACS programs help new parents manage demands

USAG Ansbach Army Community Service offers a new parent support program to help community members cope with stress, manage the demands of parenting—including single parenting—build a support network and find services in the community that can help them. The free program is open to all parents with children three or younger, even if there are older children in the home. NPSP is staffed by a licensed clinical social worker and provides one-on-one support for new parents. The services include home visits, labor and delivery classes, parenting classes, playgroups, referrals to other resources, and counseling. For more info, call DSN 467-2516 or CIV 09802-83-2516 in Katterbach, or DSN 467-4752 or CIV 09841-83-4752 in Illesheim.

Social Work Services programmed to help

USAG Ansbach Social Work Services has numerous programs to help Soldiers and their families deal with deployment and general life stressors. SWS offers a stress management group Thursdays 1-2:30 p.m. and an anger management group Wednesdays 1-2:30 p.m. in Bldg. 5817 on the second floor. SWS also has several programs that deal especially with deployment, like Beat the “Bye Bye” Blues—learn how to thrive, not just survive, the challenges of deployment—and a Warriors Group for Soldiers with post-traumatic stress

disorder or combat-related stress. SWS also conducts family readiness group briefings to meet the needs of unit FRGs. For more information on these or other programs offered through SWS, call DSN 467-2850 or CIV 09802-83-2850.

Bamberg Briefs

Going TDY or taking leave?

As a reminder, please check mail daily! Do not use your mail box as a storage facility for your mail. Properly addressed parcels not claimed within 30 days will be returned to sender, so please be sure to pick them up or notify us if you’ll be on leave or TDY. If you are unable to pick up for an extended period of time (more than five days). Fill out form **DA 2258** at the Consolidated Mail Room, to have some or all of your mail forwarded or held for a specified period.

Get a Clue at the library

It’s time to start some super summer sleuthing by registering for the USAG Bamberg Summer Reading Program today. ‘Get a Clue at Your Library’ is the theme for this year’s summer reading adventures. The program is free and runs now through July 25. For more information contact the Library at CIV 0951-300-1740.

Report unsolicited e-mails

Bamberg Field Office, 66th MI Group would like to remind you to notify Counterintelligence Special Agents if you receive unsolicited emails. Recent reports indicate that internet sites used by U.S. Service personnel and their family members are being targeted for exploitation. Should you receive an unsolicited email or if you are redirected during internet use to a suspicious website, contact the Bamberg Field Office immediately at DSN 469-8742 or CIV 0951-300-8742. Agents are on call 24/7 for your convenience.

JFK Gym temporarily closed for renovations

The JFK Gym is currently closed for renovation that will result in a new Child and Youth Services Sports and Teen Center. The first phase of the project will replace the roof and repair the façade. Interior work will continue through the fall and winter with a grand opening currently scheduled for the middle of Jan. 2008. The facility is expected to be a hallmark of the CYS program in Europe. The CYS Sports and Fitness Office will be temporarily located at the OASIS, Bldg. 7669.

Limited services Friday

Some garrison services may be limited on Friday due to an annual work forces outing. Please call ahead to confirm hours of operation. All emergency work orders will be processed by calling CIV 0951-300-115.

Post Office closed on Friday

The Bamberg Army Post Office will be closed on Friday for an Organizational Day. It will reopen on Monday at 10 a.m.

Find phone numbers online

The Bamberg Army Community Service has current telephone directories available at the Relocation Readiness Office in Bldg. 7029 Stop by Mon. through Fri. from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and pick one up. The directory is also available to download at www.bamberg.army.mil.

Register for tackle football, soccer through Aug. 3

CYS Sports registration for tackle football and soccer is open now through Aug. 3. Tackle football is open to ages 8 to 14 and cost \$84. Soccer is open to ages 3 to 15 and costs \$36. Please register at CYS Central Registration and Enrollment, Bldg. 7340 or call DSN 469-8660 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call DSN 469-8641 for information.

Summer equipment rentals available at the CAC

The Community Activity Center’s Outdoor Recreation shop located in Bldg. 7047 offers camping, BBQ, and recreation equipment rentals all summer long. The shop has everything you need

for a camping trip or summer BBQ. Two to eight-person tents, sleeping bags and pads, backpacks, camping stoves and cooking sets, coolers, canopies, fest tables, small and large grills, canoes, kayaks and paddles, wetsuits, and personal floatation devices. A price list is available at the CAC or contact ODR at CIV 0951-300-8659

Commissary takes special orders for bakery, deli

Having a picnic, party or large get together? The Bamberg commissary accepts special orders for cakes, breads, bakery items, deli meat and cheese platters, fruit and vegetable trays, dried goods, chilled or frozen items. Advance ordering is required and items may only be picked up during regular business hours. Call DSN 469-7204 for the bakery or DSN 469-7204 for the produce, meat, or grocery departments.

Buy and sell used cars

Are you moving to CONUS and need to sell your German-Spec vehicle? Or are you looking to buy a gently used vehicle to get you around locally? Take advantage of the Bamberg community “Lemon Lot” to buy or sell a used car. The lot is located on George Washington Loop up the street from the Stable Theater and the Laundromat. Vehicles must be registered at the Military Police Station prior to parking them in the lot. For more information, contact the Vehicle Registration Office which is located in room 118 at the Military Police Station. Vehicles in the lot not registered with the MP Station will be treated as abandoned, towed, and owners will be fined.

Join the AAFES team

The Bamberg AAFES facilities are looking for energetic, customer service-oriented people to fill entry level retail and food service positions. If this describes you, then apply online today at www.aafes.com.

Heating lines replaced in Flynn housing area

Through mid August, heating lines will be replaced at various locations along Maple, Beech and Elm streets. Work will be at or near Bldgs. 7659 through 7666, and 7645, 7656, 7658. No service interruptions are expected.

Adult volunteers needed for scouting programs

The Bamberg Boy Scouts is in need of adult volunteers immediately. Help support a fun-filled, worthwhile program that teaches values. For more information, call Carlos Lopez at CIV 0151-111-85141 or Erik Verhoef at CIV 0170-668-7458.

Battlemind II briefings offered once a month

Bamberg Social Work Service conducts Battlemind II briefings the first Wednesday of every month at 9 a.m. The briefings are for Soldiers that have been re-deployed for 90 days or more and need their Post Deployment Health Readiness Assessment. Once Soldiers complete the briefing, they are sent to the health clinic to be cleared from MED-PROS. Additional Battlemind II briefing dates: July 11, Aug. 1, Sept. 5. For more information, contact Candice Keith at DSN 469-7793/9016.

Schweinfurt Briefs

Volunteers needed for Vacation Bible School

Schweinfurt’s Ledward chapel presents Vacation Bible School: Avalanche Ranch from Aug. 13 – 17, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., a program for preschool through fifth-grade. Volunteers are needed now for pre-planning. Watch care is available for volunteer staff. Call Chantal Santee at CIV 09727-909516 or e-mail at chantal.j.santee@us.army.mil.

Celebrate Independence Day

Come join the rest of the Schweinfurt community all day July 4 at Kessler Field in Schweinfurt. The fun starts at 9 a.m. with a Family Fun Run and doesn’t stop. Enjoy music with a DJ from 1-6 p.m., basketball and tennis tournaments

from 2-5 p.m., climbing walls, refreshments, and live music beginning at 6:30 p.m., just after the Salute to the State Flags Ceremony. Of course, what would the 4th of July be without a fireworks show to cap off the evening, beginning at 10:30 p.m. All U.S. ID card holders are invited to attend this celebration of American independence. No glass bottles allowed, and please leave your pets at home.

Digital Training Facility

The Schweinfurt Digital Training Facility, located in Bldg. 64 on Conn Barracks is open and available for Soldiers, spouses, retirees, contractors, and local nationals to use. The facility can be used for e-learning, college courses, FRG meetings, NCOOP, video teleconferencing, viewing AKO, or learning languages with Rosetta Stone. Center is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., but evening hours are also available upon request. Call DSN 353-8564 or CIV 09721-96-8564 for more information.

Autism group meets Friday

An Army Community Services support group for those living with autism meets once a month in the Ledward ACS building, and the next meeting is Friday from 10 a.m. to noon. Learn more about resources available to help you cope and manage and build a local support network at the same time. For more information, call DSN 354-6933 or CIV 09721-96-6933.

Horseshoe tournament set

The Schweinfurt Conn Club, on Conn Barracks, will host a horseshoe tournament Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. featuring live music on the patio with Texas Rooster and BBQ food too. Come pitch some shoes, or just soak up some sun watching the competition.

Newcomer classes held

If you are new to USAG Schweinfurt, you should consider taking part in the Schweinfurt Newcomer Awareness Program for Spouses or the Newcomers’ Orientation and Welcome in Wuerzburg, both of which will be held July 9-13 beginning at 9 a.m., each at their respective Army Community Service Centers. Learn a little bit more about what both the military and German communities have to offer, and meet some new friends along the way. To learn more, or to register, call DSN 354-6933 in Schweinfurt or DSN 350-7103 in Wuerzburg.

Intermediate German lessons begin July 9

Want to follow up on that basic German class? Come take part in Intermediate German, beginning July 9 in both the Schweinfurt and Wuerzburg. Build on the foundation you built in the basic class, and become more comfortable in your German environment. To sign up, contact ACS at DSN 354-6933 or DSN 350-7103.

Depression management classes held Wednesdays

Schweinfurt Army Community Service Center is supporting a series of depression and stress management courses collectively called “Progressive Perspectives.” Learn more about postpartum depression in today’s session. Classes will run every Wednesday afternoon from 1 to 3 p.m., except for July 4, when no session will be held. The next session, July 11, will focus on the benefits of having and caring for pets in relation to depression. Find support, resources, and information to manage and reduce depression symptoms and its effects on daily life. Call DSN 354-6933 or CIV 09721-96-6933.

FCC providers needed

Ever dream of being your own boss? Like working with children? Come join the team of dedicated professionals at Family Child Care. FCC professionals offer an essential service by helping provide child care for the community, and at the same time they are running their own business from the comfort of their homes. Stop by the FCC office on Leighton Barracks, Bldg. T1 173, or Ledward Barracks, Bldg. 224, and find out how you can get started today!



The Hungarian Parliament on the Danube river is an impressive Neo-gothic structure - the world's largest parliament building when it was completed in 1902, with a staggering 691 rooms, a 315-foot (96-meter) dome, spectacular Congress and National Assembly halls, and interior treasures and artwork provided by nearly every contemporary artist of the time. It was constructed with a near-limitless budget.

Budapest : Close, convenient, & lots of fun

European travel! Visiting places you have only read about or imagined. And at last, you find yourself living in Europe, in the middle of a continent overflowing with rich culture and history, eager for exploration...

Story and photos by GARRY BARROWS

In recent articles, the Bavarian News has provided a number of outstanding day-trip ideas for nearby locales like Regensburg, Wuerzburg, and Nuremberg.

In this edition, I will take you on a virtual tour of Budapest, the capital city and jewel of Hungary.

It is a six- to eight-hour drive, or a 70-minute flight, to this bustling city on the Danube river, depending on where you depart from in Bavaria.

Air Berlin has a direct flight from Nuremberg, and if you book early enough, the rates are very affordable.

Not sure what to expect of the city services as a first-time visitor to Budapest, I was most impressed by their excellent public transportation system.

It was a delightful added convenience that did away with the expense and stress that tourists are often troubled with.

It was clean, well run, on time, with several options.

The bus system is top-notch. Each bus has a clear number on it so you will be sure to get on the right one.

You can buy a packet of tickets at various convenient locations, then simply validate them as you board the bus.

No frustrated attempts at butchering a few words of Hungarian, one of the most difficult languages to learn, to a cab driver.

Busses have their own reserved lane of traffic on most roads in Budapest. This is the main reason they are able to move around so efficiently.

If a courageous driver decides to save time by driving in the bus lane, he can expect to be pulled over by the police with a paddle, not unlike the ones the German Polizei use.

Then there are trams—electric busses that ride on their own tracks—to provide visitors another option to move around the city smoothly.

Budapest also has the oldest subway in Europe, but don't let its age fool you. It's extremely clean and

well run.

Trains are also available throughout the city to take you to the more rural locations like the town of Szentendre, (St. Stephens), an interesting collection of shops and restaurants, and a museum dedicated to the artistic use of marzipan.

Buy a one-way train ticket, then hop on a boat for a 45-minute excursion on the Danube, Europe's second longest river.

Your hotel can give you information on which bus, tram, train or metro goes to which locations, and soon, with just a little practice, you will be able to navigate the city like a native.

Once you have familiarized yourself with the transportation system, your options are endless.

Some of most fascinating sites in the European Union can be seen and enjoyed in Budapest.

The Hapsburg Empire included three famous European capitals—Vienna, Prague, and Budapest. There are many who believe the Hungarian capital to be the grandest of them. Budapest is impressive, clean, and generally safe if you stay on guard for pickpockets.

The city itself is actually a combination of three cities—Buda and Obuda on the mountainous west side, and Pest on the flatter east side of the Danube.

"There are two kinds of people who live in Budapest," a tour explained during our trip. "The ones who live in Buda and the ones who want to live in Buda."

Loved by those who live there and those would love to live there, the city offers an endless array of spectacular attractions in each of the three distinct city areas.

High on a hill overlooking the river is the sprawling Hapsburg Royal Palace on Castle Hill. Most of the present palace was built in the 18th century by Queen Maria Teresa, yet this structure was predated by another palace and two castles dating from 1253.



Take the funicular to the top of Castle Hill to visit the famed Hungarian National Gallery.

While there is nothing of particular significance to see in the palace, its grand outer appearance as it looks down across the Danube upon the Hungarian parliament building is worth a see.

This massive Neo-gothic structure, the world's largest parliament building when it was completed in 1902, has a staggering 691 rooms, a 315-foot (96 meter) dome, spectacular Congress and National Assembly halls, and interior treasures and artwork provided by nearly every contemporary artist of the time, as it was constructed with a near-limitless budget. Guided tours are the only way to see the interior, and is worth the visit.

The main player in Hungarian history is King Istvan I who came to power about the year 1000 and brought both civilization and Christianity to the state, laid the foundations for the future country of Hungary, and was wildly popular.

After his death, he was canonized and became St. Stephen whose basilica, arguably the most impressive in the city, is visible from the entire city. There are churches, and there are churches. This is one of the world's top-ten, must-see church structures. See it!

The dome is 315 feet high, the highest allowable height in Pest. The 96-meter maximum height is to commemorate the arrival of the Magyar race from the Ural Mountain area of north central Asia in 896. Amazingly, the Hungarians share a similar language structure with the Finnish people far to the north rather than their closer neighbors.

Time for a break from cultural research, so let's head for the heart and soul of Budapest, Vaci Utca (Vatsi Ootsa)—the pedestrian-only shopping area and social headquarters of the city.

The Fontana Department Store, Gerbeaud Cukraszda, the most famous of the cities many coffee houses plus numerous boutiques, shops, stores,

restaurants, cafes, and night clubs make up this area. It also includes the vast Central Market Hall with dozens of fruit, vegetable, meat shops, and craft and souvenir booths on the upper level.

After shopping, there are still several things to see and do, including a visit to the Hungarian National Gallery on Castle Hill, which houses the best of Hungarian creative arts from medieval to present day. Matyas Church and Fisherman's Bastion, not far from the palace, are also nearby and offer brilliant architecture and breathtaking views up and down the Danube. Take the funicular to the top.

Another must-see is Margaret Island, a large, green tranquil oasis located on an island in the middle of the Danube just north of the parliament building. It is where city dwellers have gone to rest and relax since 1869.

There is plenty to do and see there, including a Japanese garden, horse-drawn carriage rides, a large outdoor pool complex, a zoo, several churches, ruins and peace and quiet from the city clamor. There are excellent restaurants throughout the city that offer a greater variety than what you may find in Germany.

While there, try one of the country's most renowned dish—goulash. It may not be your mother's goulash, but it is really a vegetable beef soup with a reddish broth.

It tastes very much like vegetable beef soup with a beige broth. The menus in the Hungarian restaurants we visited had an American flavor with grilled meats and fish prevalent. Most also offered a hot sauce that any Mexican restaurant would be proud of.

Budapest offers uniquely Eastern European food, fun, and culture, but there are enough offerings with hints of America that would make even the most dedicated homebody feel comfortable.

The city is close, affordable, easy, and fun. So while deciding where to go for your next vacation, consider this enchanting historic city.

CAB senior NCOs graduate as trailblazers

Story and photo by Sgt. 1st Class **CHRIS SEATON**
12th CAB Public Affairs

Since the beginning of the Global War on Terrorism, the Army has faced the challenge getting adequate training for upcoming leaders while maintaining a high operations tempo. Eleven senior noncommissioned officers in the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade became the first in a local program to help meet that challenge. They attended the Army’s First Sergeant Course via video teleconference in their home community.

The idea is nothing new. Soldiers in the European theater have attended the same long-distance training in Vilseck for years.

Through video teleconference, the Soldiers are able to participate in real-time classroom discussions just as if they were attending the U.S. Army Sergeant’s Major Academy at Fort Bliss, Texas.

And local cadre members are able to give the students extra attention when the cameras are off.

Traveling to Vilseck, however, still means time away from a first sergeant’s company, Soldiers,

community and family. With a 15-month deployment looming, that’s time that most sitting first sergeants can ill afford.

12th CAB Command Sgt. Maj. Hector Marin paid special attention to the course and recognized the benefits from day one.

“Being able to do home-station training based on our current situation is unique,” Marin said. “All the Soldiers in this training are full-time first sergeants or will soon be rear detachment first sergeants, and right now their time is crucial.”

First Sgt. Dan Thomas, the senior instructor for the course locally, said the training was not without its challenges.

“The time difference is difficult,” Thomas said. “Our duty day starts at two in the afternoon and we go until midnight or one in the morning.

“In addition to the course, most of them go in to their units at around seven in the morning to take care of business and tighten things up,” he added.

Despite the long days and the occasional technical glitch, the 12th CAB Soldiers proved that moonlighting a course at this level

“It allowed us to spend more time with our families prior to deployment and still complete the course.”

1st Sgt. Philip Paniagua
5th Bn., 158th Avn. Regt.



Eleven 12th CAB senior NCOs graduate from the Army First Sergeants Course, which they attended via teleconference from their home community. Also pictured are two instructors and 12th Combat Aviation Brigade Command Sgt. Maj. Hector Marin (left) and V Corps Command Sgt. Maj. Ralph Beam (center).

could be done, and done well.

Three of the graduating first sergeants found their way to the top 20 percent of 125 Soldiers from around the Army attending the same course. 1st Sgt. Philip Paniagua, from 5th Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment, was among those three.

“This was just as effective as attending the course at Fort Bliss,” he

said. “In fact it was better because it was strictly curriculum. Instead of being tasked with other duties at the academy, we spent our time getting our own Soldiers ready for the deployment.

“It allowed us to spend more time with our families prior to deployment and still complete the course,” he said. “I’ve seen situations where a Soldier

is gone to a school for at least a month and then immediately deployed.”

While local training via teleconference is hardly ready to become the standard, Thomas insists the 12th CAB’s latest first sergeant grads are not a test case.

“I think we’re breaking ground for doing it this way,” he said. “I’m trying to make this the first of many.”

3-58 Aviation enters new era

by Sgt. 1st Class **CHRIS SEATON**
12th CAB Public Affairs

The 3rd Battalion, 58th Aviation Regiment entered a new era during a three-part ceremony June 8 at Storck Barracks in Illesheim.

The 3-58, part of the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade, inactivated three companies and cased its colors as an Air Traffic Services Battalion, stood up as an Airfield Operations Battalion, welcomed a new commander, and finally left the battalion colors in the hands of a new sergeant major.

“I can’t think of a finer depiction of what this unit is and does than this very ceremony here today,” said 12th CAB Commander Col. Timothy Edens.

Over the past few years, the 3-58 AOB has grown accustomed to change. Since 2003, the battalion has realigned under three separate brigades, deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan, sent a detachment to

Pakistan to aid in earthquake recovery, and currently has a detachment in Iraq.

Most recently, the battalion said goodbye to two of its companies and completed a move of its headquarters from Wuerzburg to Illesheim.

Col. Edens said no unit in the CAB has been more affected by transformation than the 3-58.

“Numerically, the 3-58 is a shadow of its former self, but is still every bit as vital to the mission of this brigade,” said Edens.

As part of the ceremony, the unit said farewell to its outgoing commander, Lt. Col. Keith Ladd who moves on to U.S. Army Europe operations in Heidelberg.

Speaking in German, he thanked his local national counterparts and then thanked his Soldiers for what they have accomplished.

“Deployments are no longer ‘if’, but ‘when’, ‘how many times’ and ‘how much time in between’,” Ladd said. “I’m amazed at the sacrifices

you’ve made and the attitude that you still have.”

Incoming commander Lt. Col. John Kornman comes to the battalion from Offut Air Force Base, Nebr., where he served as the emergency actions officer onboard the National Airborne Operations Center.

Kornman said he is excited about being part of a new chapter in the battalion’s rich history.

Finally, the ceremony saw a change of responsibility from Sgt. Maj. Terry Vance, who moves on to the U.S. Army Sergeants’ Major Academy at Ft. Bliss, Texas, to Sgt. Maj. Terry Reeder who recently left his position as the sergeant major of 12th CAB operations.

Despite the name and location changes, the core mission of the Soldiers of the 3-58 has not changed.

As their new name suggests, they are responsible for tactical airfield operations throughout the 12th CAB.

Community tops garrison AER donation record

by **JIM HUGHES**
Bavarian News

Soldiers helping Soldiers is alive and well at USAG Ansbach.

Community members donated a garrison record \$59,910 to the 2007 Army Emergency Relief donation campaign, eclipsing the previous record of \$36,378 in 2005 and doubling the 2007 goal of \$30,000, said Sarah Tipple, USAG Ansbach Army Emergency Relief officer.

“The big key to this year’s campaign was support from the top,” Tipple said, noting that Col. Timothy Edens, commander of the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade, and Lt. Col. Tammy McKenna, USAG Ansbach commander, led the charge in supporting the program. “All the way down the chain of command we got great support on informing people about the program and urging people to contribute.”

Tipple said unit representatives were also key to this year’s success.

“It’s important for the reps to make 100 percent contact with people to give them information on AER and to give them a chance to contribute,” she said. “It worked really well this year.”

The success of the campaign took Tipple by surprise.

“At the start of the campaign, I would’ve been pleased meeting the \$30,000 goal,” she said. “Last year we raised under \$25,000 and with the deployment coming up and everyone gearing up for it, I thought AER would be on the back burner.”

But command support kicked in and the donations quickly picked up, she said.

“I knew it would be good, but I had no idea it was going to be almost \$60,000,” Tipple said. “It’s pretty amazing.”

The increase in donations is a good thing, Tipple said, because the need for help is also on the rise.

“In 2006, 156 Soldiers in USAG Ansbach received a total of \$161,253 in interest-free loans and grants,” she

said. “And this year, we’re already seeing a 100 percent increase, so the need for assistance keeps going up year after year.”

AER is a charity and receives no appropriated or non-appropriated funding, Tipple said. It provides emergency financial assistance to Soldiers, Family members, retirees, and widows and orphans.

“Soldiers put money into the charity and the money goes out to help Soldiers,” she said. “The biggest things we see (people needing help with) overseas are emergency vehicle repair and emergency travel.”

Recently, though, she’s noticed an increase in people needing help with rent and early return of dependents because of the upcoming deployment.

“And you didn’t have to donate to get help. We don’t track that,” Tipple said. “If there is a need, then we help.”

But Soldiers do have to work through their chain of command to get assistance from AER.

Tipple trains commanders and first sergeants on the program and how to use it to get their Soldiers the help they need.

“It’s a good program that helps all ranks,” she said. “And 88 cents of every dollar donated goes back to the Soldiers—it’s rated a 4-Star charity by Charity Navigator.”

Soldiers in need of assistance through AER can give Tipple a call or start the process through their chain of command.

Tipple said in most instances, Soldiers seeking help will have a check in hand within an hour of gathering paperwork they usually already have.

And people who want to give to the program don’t have to wait for the 2008 donation campaign. Tipple said donations are accepted at any time.

AER is not a part of the Combined Federal Campaign because it is an Army-only program.

For more on AER, call DSN 467-2064 or CIV 09802-83-2064.

Garrison Spotlight

Vera Bernhard, realty specialist and team leader of the on-post, off-post, and leased housing on Katterbach Kaserne, applies the Golden Rule to her duties and customers.

“When Soldiers and families arrive to a different country, they may not feel very comfortable because of a different culture, environment, language barrier, etc. I listen to them, try to understand and care for their needs and situations, be myself and treat them as I would want to be treated if I arrived in a new country.” Many customers appreciate this philosophy, as evidenced by this one of many positive customer comments: “Since I have been here she has helped with everything I have asked and does not hesitate to get any answer or service that I or my Soldiers need.”

Denise Degraffenraidt, Bernhard’s supervisor, described her as “a valuable asset to this organization, going beyond the call of duty to assist our customers and showing that she really cares deeply about their concerns and issues. She is a true team player.”



Warm winter boosts caterpillar population

Stay clear of Oak Processionary nests to avoid dermatitis



Courtesy photo

The larvae of the Oak Processionary moth builds its nests on the underside of oak branches. If you spot a nest, do not attempt to remove it. Report it to DSN 469-5000.

by NICOLE KARSCH-MEIBOM
Bavarian News

Last winter’s unseasonably warm temperatures have resulted in an increased number of insects this summer.

Among the nuisances making the news in Bamberg are the larvae of the Oak Processionary moth (*Thaumetopea processionae*).

The caterpillar hairs, or setae, can cause caterpillar dermatitis or other health problems when the larva sheds its skin and the hair-like projections break off and float through the air.

The insects tend to build their nests on the underside of oak tree branches. Residents should be aware that a few nests have been found in the oak trees on Warner Barracks, in particular near the dog park.

Once a tree with a nest has been identified, German and American authorities will seal the area around the tree to keep exposure to a minimum.

Contact with the hairs on this caterpillar can cause skin and eye irritations in humans within minutes or up to two hours after exposure and the reaction can persist for up to two weeks. Exposed skin may look like mite or insect bites.

The caterpillar dermatitis can be uncomfortable but is not life threatening. However, the exposure can - very infrequently cause an anaphylactic allergic reaction that would require immediate attention.

“In cases of severe exposure or reaction (tightness in the chest, hives, swelling, nausea, or dizziness) immediately consult a health care provider,” says Tina Streker, a Bamberg Army Public Health Nurse.

Residents are advised to not go near the nests.

“Our experts wear full body protection suits and masks when removing the nests from the trees,” explained landscape architect Angelika Gruneberg, of Bamberg Operations and Maintenance Division.

To avoid caterpillar dermatitis do not allow your children to play next to infested oak trees throughout July and do not walk in the underbrush of forests. Individuals who come in contact with the caterpillar hairs should shower as soon as possible and wash their clothing.

U.S. Army Garrison Bamberg Directorate of Public Works staff members are routinely inspecting the trees and forested areas of Warner Barracks for nests and ask residents to keep an eye on the caterpillars as well.

“If you see a nest or a line of caterpillars, do not hesitate to call the Work Order Section at DSN 469-5000. There is no reason to be alarmed and if everybody keeps an open eye, we can tackle these situations quickly and efficiently,” said Gruneberg.

Off-post residents are also encouraged to report infested trees to the Bamberg Work Order Section at CIV 0951-300-5000.

BRIEFS

4th of July Celebrations

The USAG Bamberg Independence Day celebrations will take place July 4 throughout Warner Barracks.

At 9 a.m. the day will kick off with a golf tournament at Whispering Pines Golf course.

At 10 a.m. race to the finish in the Red, White and Blue 5K Fun Run / 10K Race starting at Freedom Fitness Facility.

At 1 p.m. teens (ages 12-16) are invited to join a scavenger hunt, (sponsored by 173rd BSB FRG) starting at the Community Mailroom.

At 2 p.m., come watch a German-American Soccer game at Pendleton Field.

The community-wide festival will begin at 4 p.m. at Friendship Park and will include a giant jumpy castle, dunk tank, shoot the geek paintball tent, bungee trampoline, tug- of-war, dart tournaments, football/basketball shootout, a Hot Rod car show from 1 to 6 p.m., Siberian Husky dog sled rides for kids at 5:30 p.m., plus food and drink concessions and fun for the entire family. Starting at 6 p.m. enjoy two hours of live music and entertainment from Rock’n roll band “Kojak”. If you like Weezer, Red Hot Chilli Peppers or Audioslave, you’ll love their new album! Check www.kojakonline.com for more details and music samples! The evening will end with a fireworks display starting at 10:15 p.m.

Child Supervision Policy

Never leave your child in a car unattended. Leaving children alone within a car is a **neglectful action** and considered a form of child abuse and is in violation of the USAG Bamberg Command Child supervision policy.

This includes leaving a child in the car when paying for gasoline at the shoppette or to pick up your mail at the CMR.

To read the policy, visit <http://www.bamberg.army.mil/policies/06-22.doc> and stay informed!

School’s out! Slow down!

Summer vacation began June 14 throughout USAG Bamberg. The speed limit in Warner Barracks housing areas is 20 km.

The command group reminds motorists to please drive carefully, especially through housing areas and near athletic fields, and wherever children might be playing. Keep our children and neighborhoods safe this summer.

Not getting your mail?

The Bamberg Consolidated Mailroom has been flooded with improperly addressed mail and will begin to return that mail to senders.

To receive your mail, you must contact the sender and change your address from your UNIT address to your new 4-line CMR address.

A list of places you may need to contact are:

- Banking institutions
- Magazine Subscriptions
- Schools or Clubs
- Credit Card Companies
- State Agencies and IRS
- All online shopping sites (to continue receiving catalogs from online stores)
- Netflix.com
- Vehicle and Voter Registration

The proper 4-line address for sending and receiving mail is (sample):

Rank and name: Sgt. Johns Customer
Unit Designation: HHD, 5th Eng. Bn
CMR & Box : CMR 459, Box 01234
APO plus 4: APO, AE 09139-1234
The plus-4 digits following the APO number are the last four in your box number.

New shuttle bus making rounds

by AMY BUGALA
Bavarian News

Since early June Bamberg residents may have noticed a new coach-style passenger bus making the post shuttle rounds on Warner Barracks.

A new European style 33-passenger bus recently replaced one of the old Blue Bird buses in the Bamberg transportation motor pool fleet.

“The buses are regularly replaced after 12 years of use or 450,000 kilometers, which was the case here,” explained Gerhard Eichorn, Bamberg’s installation transportation officer.

Eichorn said the switch to the European style bus was to achieve efficiencies while maintaining comfort, as the new fleet is in fact quieter, uses less gas per mile, and meets European environmental standards.

But, passengers aren’t complaining about the amenities that come along with it.

Passengers will see improvements over the Blue Bird, including a wider center door, low floors for easier access, and an improved air conditioning system.

The bus is also equipped with seatbelts, overhead luggage compartments, and plenty of room under the seats for packages.

The passengers aren’t the only ones who benefit from the upgrade. The drivers are provided with reverse driving video assistance, ergonomic seats, an operating panel, and more clarity while maneuvering narrow roads.

Leo Gunsellmann, post shuttle bus driver says he enjoys a quieter workday due to the rear engine.

The shuttle runs daily from 7:10 a.m. to 5:10 p.m. and transports up to 100 passengers between single Soldiers barracks, dining and shopping facilities, administrative offices, and other work areas.

If you haven’t had a chance to experience the new bus, just hop aboard at one of the 18 stops located throughout Warner Barracks and enjoy the ride.

Visit www.bamberg.army.mil to download a post shuttle schedule under “Bamberg Services.”



Photo by James Fredrick

Riders can take advantage of the new quieter, spacious, and more efficient buses by getting on at any of the 18 shuttle stops on Warner Barracks.



Courtesy photo

Col. Stephen Leisenring, Commander, U.S. Army Contracting Command Europe, presents Eileen Hipe, chief of the Franconia Regional Contracting Office, with the U.S. Army Contracting Command Europe Award for Contracting Excellence recognizing the RCO Franconia as the 2006 Best Contracting Office.

USAG Bamberg Happenings



Terry Snow, Bamberg D.A.R.E. officer, recognizes Raymond Chang, Jessica Haddix, and Stephen Welch for their workbooks during the D.A.R.E. graduation June 12.

Photo by James Fredrick

Bamberg Class of 2007



Dillon Baker



Sherell Carter



Jennifer Clark



Neickco Cobbins



Andrew Duque



Charlene Edwards



Marvin Gholston



Christina Hopkins



Jasmine Hopkins



Rodney Hughes Jr.



Ashlee Kozel



Brett Lemley



Jennifer Luderer



David Maritz



Nicholas McGuinness



Timaree McKinney



Bernard McPherson II



Christina Mueller



Mary Kathleen Osier



Barbara Payton



Chris Pinkerton



Thomas Pitts



Christian R. Pixler



Dwight Richardson



Amber Stoffels



Michael Thomas



VanPatrick Torain



Adam Worrell



Photo by Amy Bugala

Ready to face the future

With diploma in hand, Bamberg graduate Bernard McPherson II takes a step toward his future and exits Castle Seehof, Memmelsdorf after the commencement ceremony June 8. In the company of proud family members, friends, and faculty, 29 Bamberg seniors became the twenty-seventh graduating class of Bamberg High School.



Photo by Amy Bugala

We made it!

With a sigh of relief, Bamberg's Jasmine Hopkins and Shanice Willis give each other a hug moments after graduating at the Castle Seehof in Memmelsdorf June 8.

Ansbach Class of 2007



Katherine Alegado



Charles Bagalawis



Salina Boodoosingh



Kayla Brost



Gregory Chase



Danielle Cook



James Daniels



Winda Dianti



Kayla Eidson



Janeen Gethers



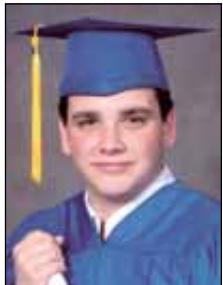
Samantha Hakes



Joshua Hale



Kerron Hutton



Mikel Kendle



Katherine Kimmel



Carolina Larmeu



Raffael Limbrunner



Paulette Lopez



Shantel Moore



Shannon Olson



Stephanie Pike



Daniela Pipok



Vianca Quinones



Chelsea Sant



Adrion Shack



Ronald Snow



Dustin Teall



Jazmine Thibodeaux



Chava Thompson



Shuzel Timothy



Liana Tuliau



Monico Vilorio



Shawna Waters



Baraka Waweru



Darrin Williams



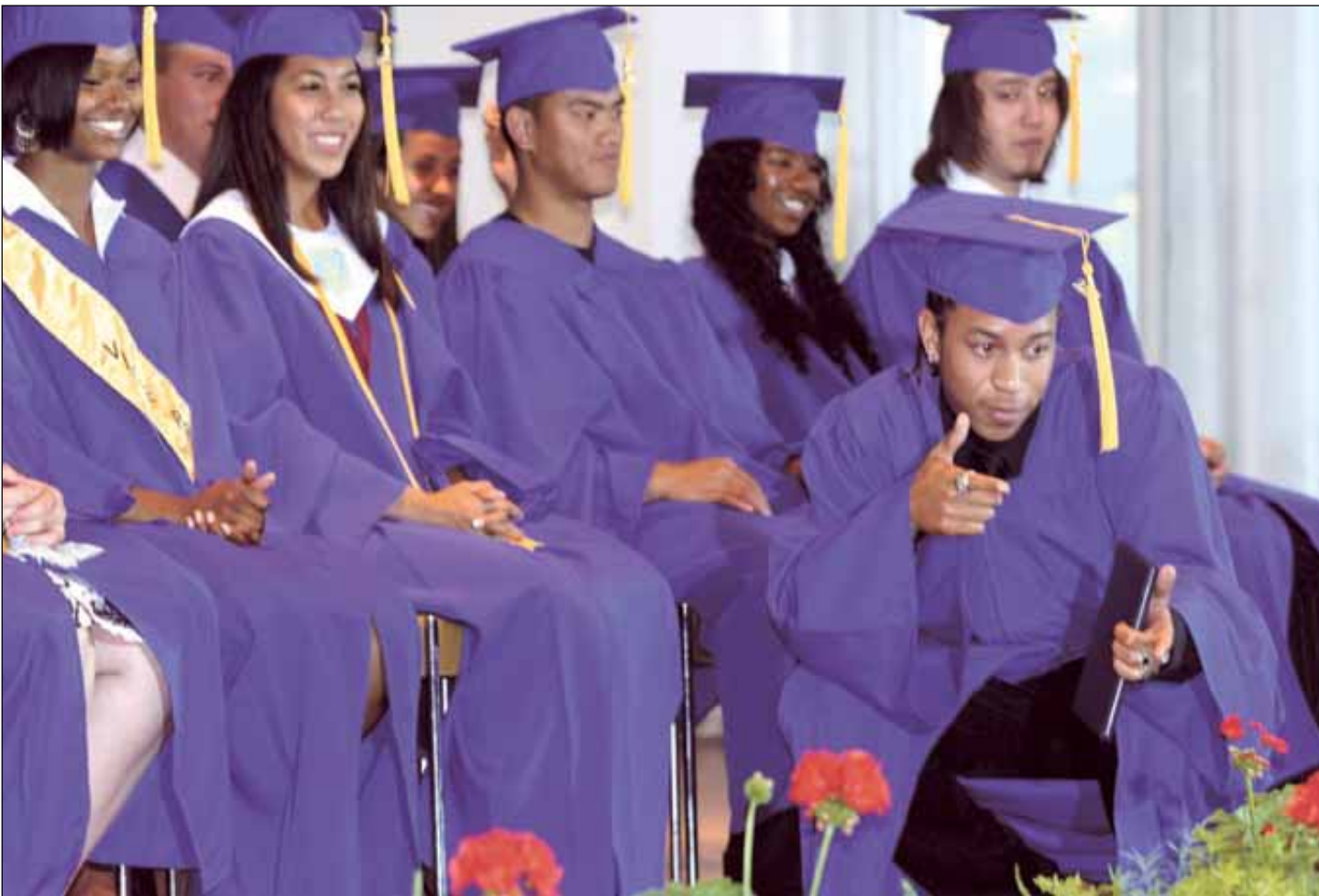
Jessica Willoughby



Jonieshea Wright



David Zumbach



The fun never ends...

Adrion Shack hams it up after receiving his diploma at the Ansbach High School Graduation Ceremony for the Class of 2007.

Thirty-eight Ansbach seniors received their diplomas at the ceremony held at the city's Orangerie June 7.

The school also awarded a diploma to and tearfully read a dedication for Katherine Kimmel, a Cougar senior killed in a May 28 auto accident.

Photo by Jim Hughes

Diversity, parents hailed during 2007 graduation

by **ROGERTEEL**
Bavarian News

Fifty-two seniors from Wuerzburg American High School boarded a boat at Wuerzburg’s Alte Krane on the Main River June 7, traveling together one last time to their graduation ceremony at the Mainfrankesale in nearby Veitshochheim.

After the school’s 53rd commencement exercise, attended by Department of Defense Education Activity Director Dr. Joseph Tafoya, the seniors set sail on the river of life.

As a prelude to the ceremony, comments by Gen. William “Kip” Ward, deputy commander, European Command, Gen. David McKiernan, commander, U.S. Army, Europe, and the Dagger (Schweinfurt’s 2nd Combat Brigade) command team of Col. J. B. Burton and Command Sgt. Maj. John Fortune were projected on a huge on-stage screen.

Attending from afar

The ceremony was also transmitted via video teleconference to Soldier/parents serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Each graduate’s baby picture was

presented before it was morphed into their graduation photo, a presentation prepared by teacher Tom Tucker.

In lieu of a guest speaker, the seniors chose to represent themselves at the lectern and addressed the lessons they learned, the importance of their mentors, their love for their parents and their respect for each other.

“Don’t panic!”

Salutatorian Nils Aaron Lake Jonsson set a humorous tone as he talked about one of his favorite books, “The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy,” reciting a phrase that has stuck with him – “Don’t panic.” Jonsson used the phrase to advise teachers and administrators who may be looking for jobs in the near future, as well as to parents and his fellow classmates.

“We have a diversity of great teachers in our school,” Jonsson said, “and they have given a great diversity to our class.”

Valedictorian Afton Cissell noted how her parents had sacrificed so that she could graduate from Wuerzburg. Her father now lives and works in Virginia, and her mother had to become

the family’s sponsor in order for Cissell to remain in school.

“I saw my mother struggle, but I also watched her persevere, and how both my parents’ love and generosity continues,” Cissell said, adding that her grandmother is her best friend.

Cissell singled out three educators, saying, “The support of these people is all I need. I hope the same is true for my classmates.”

The graduates then came to the podium in pairs, talking about such varied topics as love of family, their inspirations, their legacy and growing up in military schools.

Thankful for the sacrifice

Acacia Allen burst into tears as she talked about gratitude, thanking her mother and father (who is deployed downrange).

“Thank God we’ll never be this young again!” she said as she left the podium.

Zach Smith said people in America say military kids have it easy. “Yes, we live in other places, and we have left home, which some of them have never done. But it still takes determination to achieve.”

Diana Rosslerova perhaps best demonstrated the diversity of the Class of 2007. Born in the Czech Republic, Rosslerova said she does not take graduating from high school for granted.

Passports to opportunity

“We are lucky to be graduates because our diplomas are our passports to opportunity. I thank the United States of America for having schools here that I could attend.”

Rosslerova ended with a tribute to her family, some visiting from the Czech Republic, saying, “This is probably the only thing they will understand all night.” She then addressed them in her native tongue. The students then left the stage to present flowers and personal greetings to their parents and loved ones in attendance.

Once reconvened, WAHS Principal Walt Seely presented their diplomas. Amid cheers, tears and applause from those in attendance, the graduates simultaneously turned their tassels, tossed their mortar boards in the air and jumped into life beyond high school.

Our fallen Soldiers not forgotten

by **SANDRA WILSON**
Bavarian News

“When we reflect on (death), our minds go numb, our eyes swell and water,” said Lt. Col. Glen Masset, Battalion Commander, Task Force Gila in comments relayed by Capt. Chad Ramskugler at a memorial ceremony at the Ledward Chapel June 11.



Martinez

Family, and friends gathered June 11 at Ledward Chapel to remember and honor the lives of Staff Sgt. Virgil C h a n c e



Blodgett

Martinez of B Battery, 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery and Pfc. Clinton Coy Blodgett of A Company, 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment. In separate incidents, both Soldiers were killed by Improvised Explosive Devices while carrying out their duties in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Sgt. Derrick Salas relayed roommate Sgt. Alexander Morales’ remarks about his friendship with Martinez.

“I remember at first he was hardly proficient at his artillery job, but he put in a lot of time and commitment to learn and came out with astounding results,” said Morales.

Hanging out with Martinez over cups of coffee became Morales’ most fond memory of their friendship, although Martinez’s caring attitude left an impression as well.

“He was a loving husband, father first, an excellent leader, and a great friend,” Morales said.

Blodgett was also remembered for his devotion to friends and Family.

“He was the kind of guy who would almost literally give the people he cared about the shirt off his back if they needed it,” said best friend Spc. William Dunleavy, whose remarks were read by Sgt. Stephen Castillo.

Castillo also spoke on behalf of Blodgett’s squad leader Staff Sgt. Kevi Fahie.

“He’s the type of person that would smoke and joke with you, but when it came down to business, he was always ready to roll out on a mission,” he said.

“When Soldiers die we mourn not only the life that was lost but also the life that might have been. Sorrow is a reflection and measure of our love,” said Chaplain (Col.) James Brown.

“They fell as freedom fighters seeking to bring peace.”

Wuerzburg Middle School closes

by **ROGERTEEL**
Bavarian News

After 17 years, Wuerzburg American Middle School ceased operations June 8.

When school started last fall there were 130 students in grades six, seven, and nine. Only 91 students remained at the end of the 2006-07 school year, evidence of the impact the Army’s transformation has had on the Wuerzburg region.

Guest speaker Col. Dallas Homas, commander of the Wuerzburg Medical

Department Activity and senior area commander, said there were two missions to be accomplished. The first was to get the kids off on an enjoyable summer vacation. The second was to close the school.

“When I think of my school days, I don’t think about the building where I went to school or my locker or any of that stuff. I think about the good times and the people I shared them with. That’s what you will do, too. You’ll take the positive energy you got from teachers who have been developing you as young adults,” Homas said.

Several students spoke, presenting their reflections on the school. Jamie Carle’s comments were especially intriguing, as she recited a poem she had written that conveyed the sentiments held by many in attendance.

Bavaria District Superintendent Mike Thompson said the event reminded him of the closure of American schools in Nuernberg 12 years ago. He then segued to next year.

“A year from now we’ll be closing Wuerzburg elementary and high schools ... Nothing happens without

change,” he added. “And we’re always in it.”

Citing author David McNally, Thompson likened the middle school process to a mother eagle pushing her young out of the nest.

“The push was the greatest gift she could give them,” he said.

“The imprint is already there,” Thompson told the students. “You have the social skills and the learning. So as you fly, remember what you have learned here in this school. Remember your time here, your teachers and the events you took part in.”

Attend next basic auto repair class Tuesday



Thomas Woditsch, Auto Skills Center manager, demonstrates an oil change during a basic auto repair class.

Story and photo by SANDRA WILSON
Bavarian News

Car trouble can be one of the most frustrating and costly problems to have, especially if you’re not mechanically inclined.

Army Community Service has a solution. ACS is offering a basic auto repair class as part of the “I Can Do It” Success Series this summer.

The first class took place June 5 at the Auto Skills Center on Conn Barracks. Participants gathered around a car in the repair garage with Thomas Woditsch, the program director for the Auto Skills Center, as he taught about fluid and battery checks, oil changes, and brake pad and tire inspections.

The Auto Skills Center will provide training for anybody on any tool in the shop, and they will also assist in repairs for those who choose

to work on their own cars. A break room with video capability is available for kids.

“I want to know how to fix my own car since my husband’s not here,” said Angela Mejias, a 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment spouse.

“Nothing automotive is that difficult. If you’re willing to get a little dirty, you would be surprised at how quickly you can learn and get your car fixed,” said Woditsch.

The center offers estimates on repairs and can offer advice on whether clients are being overcharged at auto shops.

Through September, the Auto Skills Center will offer free bay usage on Tuesdays.

The next auto repair class will be held in Schweinfurt Tuesday at 1 p.m.

For more information, call ACS at DSN 354-6933 or CIV 09721-96-6933.

Community invited to attend, make crafts at Christmas in July events

Story and photo by SANDRA WILSON
Bavarian News

Christmas time, already? Not quite, but for those who like to plan ahead and enjoy the season at a more leisurely pace, USAG Scwheinfurt will kick off its first Christmas in July program.

Sponsored by Army Community Services, the weekly events will be held every Thursday in July at Ledward’s Crafts Studio from 6 to 8 p.m. Visitors can enjoy demonstrations and a festive holiday atmosphere.

Each session is open to anyone who wants to get new ideas for gifts and crafts, as well as anyone who just

want to get a jump start on finishing their own holiday projects.

Attendees can participate in the projects, or simply watch.

“When Christmas came around, we would find ourselves going nuts because we had started projects and never finished them,” said Bonnie Cornelison, ACS generalist, who had the idea to start the program in Schweinfurt.

“If nothing else, it will get you thinking about Christmas and ideas about gifts you want to give before all the rush,” said Cornelison.

Participants must bring their own materials or purchase them for a minimal fee. The craft demonstrations, however, are free and include topics

such as quilting blocks, stockings, candy dishes, card-making, gift-wrapping, and various ribbons.

“It’s just a matter of using your imagination,” said David Haywood, Crafts Studio manager. “And there are so many simple gifts that don’t take a lot of time.”

The Crafts Studio has a lot to offer beyond Christmas in July demonstrations and will show attendees how to box up and mail gifts so they do not break during shipment.

So come listen to Christmas music and enjoy the sights and scents of the holiday while collecting craft ideas and products to make 2007 an even more meaningful season.



Schweinfurt’s first Christmas in July program will take place every Thursday in July from 6-8 p.m. at Ledward’s Craft Studio.

Wuerzburg Class of 2007



Acacia Allen



Kent Barrios



Kirstin Brewster



Donald Bryant



Danielle Bushelle



Angel Castaneda



Jamie Chanler



Afton Cissell



Lindsey Cole



Brittny Dallen



Taylor Dallen



Daniel Davis



Mark Dixon



Camille Edwards



Nicholas Evans



Carlos Figueroa



Eric Flom



Chandler Griffith



Candice Hall



Bryant Harvey



Kristin Hickey



Ashley Jackson



Megan Janda



Nils Jonsson



Kennyatta Joyner



Sean Kell



Alex King



Sunisa Kunsiri



Jamielle Lamson-Buscho



Brittanie Langford



Jaileen Madera-Torres



Danielle McKay



Gregory Pico



Nathalie Pinschmidt



Jenna Reilly



Katherine Riley



Daniel Ross



Diana Rosslerova



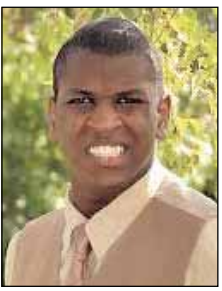
Joseph Serpa



Toni Serpa



Cassie Shaw



Darrin Shorts



Christin Slater



Zachary Smith



Chelsea Stroud



John Swisher



Jessica Tavares



Jose Torres



Eric Trevino



Kandice Turner



Jasmine Watts



William Blake Whitmire



Wuerzburg seniors file into the Mainfrankensale in Veitshochheim prior to their graduation ceremony June 7. Fifty-two seniors graduated in the Class of 2007.

Photo by Roger Teel

Differences in local dialects cause confusion even for native Germans

Does anybody around here really speak German?

by MARTINA BIAS
Special to the Bavarian News

Are you one of the many Americans living here who have tried to learn German so you can communicate with the people of your host country?

I probably didn't take you long to discover that whatever your neighbors are saying to each other does not even come close to any of the vocabulary you learned in class.

Isn't that strange? Do you ever wonder if anybody around here even speaks real German?

Let me clear up some of the confusion. The German that is taught in school is called "Hochdeutsch" (high German). This is the official language in Germany, but very few people actually speak it.

Most people speak in their

various dialects. Their dialect can vary from town to town, or even from village to village.

My home town has its own dialect, but the people in the next larger town - 20 minutes away - have a very different dialect. I believe this dates back centuries ago when people mostly kept to themselves and their own communities, and travel was not common.

Dialects are typically variations of the German language and can take many forms.

Words can be shortened or have different endings and accenting.

Some dialects make up new words and have distinctive phrases and greetings.

For example, there is the German word "herum" (meaning "around").

I grew up in Oberfranken (upper Franconia) and in my dialect we would shorten it and just say "rum", but the people here in the "Oberpfalz" (Upper Palatinate) would say "umanant", which is a word you will not find in any German dictionary.

The first time I walked into a local store here in Grafenwoehr and said "Guten Tag" (good day - the usual greeting in Oberfranken) I

encountered a raised eyebrow and received a "Gruess Gott" (literally greet God - the usual greeting in the Oberpfalz) and the question: "You are not from around here, are you?"

German natives can usually tell by the kind of dialect where in Germany a person is from.

The area around Stuttgart has a very distinct dialect called "Schwaebisch."

Bavarians have their own way of talking as well. It is easy to recognize a person from Berlin by the way they change the pronunciations of certain words.

The dialect of the northern German states is called "Plattdeutsch" (flat German). Even Germans from the former East Germany stand out with the way they speak.

It might seem amazing that such big differences can exist in such a

small country.

I visited one of the islands in the North Sea as a child and I remember that I found it so hard to understand the locals there. My grandmother from Bavaria and an elderly person from Northern Germany probably would not be able to converse because their dialects are so dramatically different and neither one learned Hochdeutsch in school as a child.

So, are you wasting time by trying to learn German, a traditionally difficult language?

Absolutely not. Hochdeutsch is spoken on TV, and it is the written language. In addition, most Germans will try to speak clear German when they realize they are talking to someone whose first language is not German.

They would rather make the effort and speak Hochdeutsch than struggle to speak English!

My grandmother from Bavaria and an elderly person from Northern Germany probably would not be able to converse because their dialects are so dramatically different.

Neighboring Amberg holds Guinness Book record for world's biggest Dotsch

by MARTINA BIAS
Special to the Bavarian News

Did you know that the city of Amberg is mentioned in the Guinness Book of World Records?

Well, everyone around here knows, and they are proud of the fact that in 1997, the biggest "Dotsch" in the world was baked here.

Dotsch is the regional variation of the potato pancake.

A little further north, in Franconia, you might find it called Detsch, and further south, it is known as Reiberdatschi.

The "official" German name is Kartoffelpuffer.

Depending on their age, some Germans consider the potato pancakes as homey, comfort food or "the bread of poverty and deprivation."

The way German and Americans eat their potato pancakes differs quite a bit. I still remember the time my husband ate his first Detsch at my family's house.

We were setting the table and when my husband saw the potato pancakes being served, he grabbed the salt and pepper shakers and the ketchup bottle.

The look on my family's faces at his choice of condiments was probably as surprising as his facial expression when he noticed that we were spreading apple sauce on our pancakes. Yes, applesauce is the condiment of choice for the German cakes.

The preparation of potato pancakes in a German kitchen can vary. My mother still grates the potatoes by hand on the large grater my grandmother used.

The modern housewife will use her kitchen machine.

However you chose to achieve the consistency, just make sure it has a fine texture and is not just shredded like the American version, Latkes.

Even the finest grater on my kitchen machine leaves the potatoes too stringy, so I process them again combined with all the other batter ingredients in my blender to achieve an extra smooth consistency.

If you don't mind shopping on the economy and want a fuss-free preparation, give the "Short-Cut Dotsch" recipe below a try.

It uses refrigerated, purchased potato dumpling dough.

(I prefer preparing and eating the homemade version, but for those who do not have the time or do not wish to take the time to make them, Dotsch are sold in the frozen section of most German grocery stores.)

Serve the Kartoffelpuffer the German way with apple sauce, other fruit compotes, a sprinkle of sugar, or maybe a little sour cream.

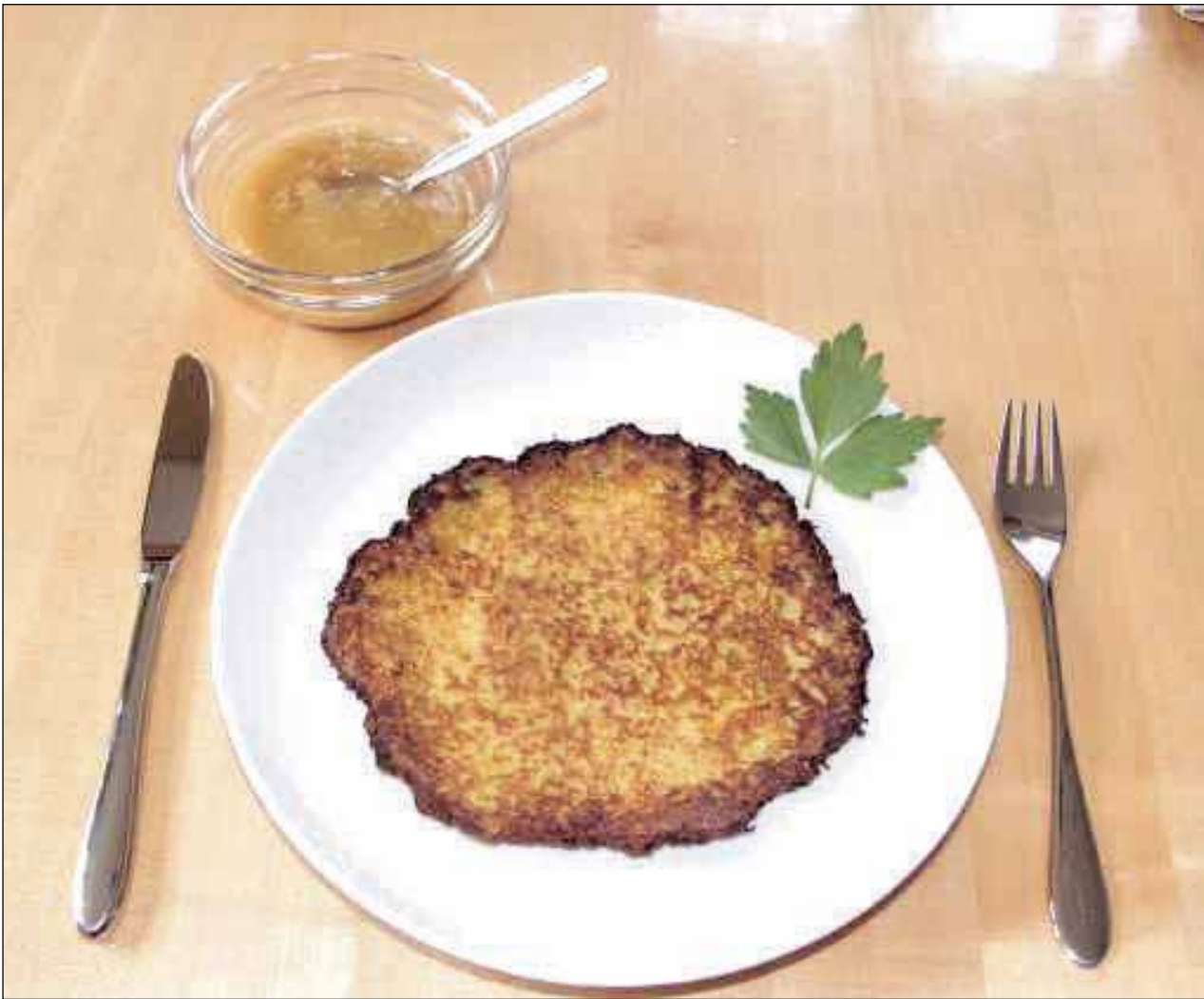
And if you absolutely can't resist using ketchup, that's okay. I promise, I won't tell!

Guten Appetit!

Kartoffelpuffer
ca. 2 pounds potatoes
(about 6 medium)
3 Tbs. sour cream
1 egg
3 Tbs. flour
½ tsp. salt
1 small onion, finely grated
oil for frying



The extra work put into making the potatoes such a smooth consistency pays off when guests tast this wonderful treat.



Courtesy photos

"Dotsch", also known as "Detsch" or "Kartoffelpuffer," is often served with apple sauce or other fruit sauces to add a sweet taste to this potato pancake.

Peel potatoes and quickly grate in kitchen machine.

Mix immediately with sour cream in a large bowl. The sour cream prevents the unsightly browning of the grated potatoes.

Add egg and mix well.

Slowly add flour, salt, and grated onion, if desired.

Heat a few teaspoons of oil in a non-stick pan.

Spread about ½ cup of batter in pan and flatten as thin as possible with the back of a spoon.

Cook until nicely browned and crispy on each side.

Add more oil to the pan as needed for additional Kartoffelpuffer.
Yield: 8 – 10

Short-Cut Dotsch
2 eggs
1/3 cup plain yoghurt or sour cream
1 cup milk
½ tsp. salt
¼ tsp. pepper
1 Package refrigerated

"Knoedelteig" or "Klossteig" (750 g)
oil for frying

In a medium bowl, whisk the first 5 ingredients.

Pour about ½ cup of batter in pan and spread to flatten as thin as possible.

Cook until crispy and golden brown on both sides.

Yield: about one dozen

Pro baseball coach shares Major League tips with kids

Story and photo by **KIMBERLY GEARHART**
Bavarian News

Aspiring baseball players in Schweinfurt and Wuerzburg received a special treat when professional baseball coach John Noce dropped in for two days of skills clinics June 18 and 19.

The clinics were a part of the Major League Baseball envoy program, a partnership between MLB, U.S. Army Child and Youth Services, and the Boys and Girls Club of America.

Noce, who was inducted into the American Coaches' Association Hall of fame in 1993, is touring Army bases in Germany and Italy offering his expertise to children ages 6 to 18, coaches, and CYS employees in areas ranging from throwing a ball to motivation techniques.

The June 18 clinic drew over 50 young children, including the entire Schweinfurt School Age Services summer camp group.

"You're going to get a chance today to get some baseball education," said Hal Snyder, Schweinfurt Army Community Services director, addressing the children as the clinic began.

Noce began the clinic with the admonition that playing baseball isn't easy and takes some practice and some basic skills, like ball handling.

"You've got to know how to throw the ball, and you've got to know how to catch it," Noce said, pacing in front of the children with a baseball in hand.

Noce demonstrated how to get into the proper "athletic position" with feet shoulder-width apart and knees slightly bent—a crucial stance for any sport.

Once divided into five groups, children were given baseball gloves, balls, and drilled on the basics of throwing and catching a baseball.

SAS and Youth Sports employees and



Professional baseball coach John Noce demonstrates the proper way to throw a ball during a baseball skills clinic in Schweinfurt June 18.

volunteers helped direct children in proper form all the while dodging the occasional wild pitch.

Despite the wind and threat of rain,

participants stuck it out and enjoyed this rare chance to get outside, play some ball, and learn tips from a professional.

Woods invites troops to invitational

Story and photo by **SAMANTHA L. QUIGLEY**
American Forces Press Service

Thirty thousand active-duty service members and guests will be able to attend the inaugural AT&T National invitational golf tournament July 3-8, professional golfer Tiger Woods announced May 29.

Woods, who's hosting the event at Congressional Country Club in Bethesda, Md., made the announcement from the storied venue's clubhouse. He said he understands what it means to be part of a military family and that he wants to acknowledge the sacrifices the nation's servicemembers are making.

"I grew up in that household," Woods, whose late father was a Vietnam veteran, said. "I have friends who are in the military as well, so I know the level of commitment that it takes for them and the things that they do."

It's no coincidence that the tournament incorporates the Fourth of July holiday.

"It's our nation's birthday," he added. "I don't think it could be any better than to have it (then) in D.C. and have all the servicemen and women come out and have it on this golf course."

The newest PGA Tour tournament is working with the military's Pentagon-based Morale, Welfare, and Recreation office to distribute the tickets, 5,000 for each day of the tournament, Greg McLaughlin, president of the Tiger Woods Foundation, said.

"Our intent is to honor and really thank the people that protect us," he said.

As part of that effort, servicemembers attending the tournament will have their own VIP entrance near the 16th green that will lead to



Golfer Tiger Woods fields questions during a May 29 news conference to get the word out about the July 3-8 AT&T National golf tournament.

a special seating gallery. Their valid military identification card also will garner them discounts on concessions, McLaughlin said.

"We've got about 10 items in cooperation with the PGA Tour and the Pentagon that we've been working on," he added. "These details will come out later this week and in the weeks leading up to the tournament."

The tournament, which has a \$6 million purse,

will consist of 72 holes of regulation play. Participation is open to 120 players by invitation only. Though many pro golfers set their schedules before the beginning of the year, Jim Furyk, Adam Scott, Davis Love III and Darren Clarke have joined the field in the quest for the winner's \$1.08 million prize.

While Phil Mickelson and Ernie Els won't hit the Congressional links, Vijay Singh is "up in the air," Woods said.

Woods, who's ranked No. 1 in the world, said he's intending to play, though Mother Nature may have other plans. His wife, Elin, is expecting the couple's first child and could give birth during the tournament.

That fact gave way to a hypothetical question that drew a good laugh from the crowd gathered for the news conference. A reporter asked what Woods would do if he were on the 18th green, holding a one-stroke lead, and got a call saying Elin had just gone into labor.

"Well, I'll have to play real quick, won't I?" Woods said, breaking into a wide smile as the room burst into laughter. "A (birdie) will win, won't it?"

No matter which player claims the tournament title, the real winners will be the children reached through the programs offered by the Tiger Woods Foundation, one of the tournament's beneficiaries. Other D.C.-based charities also will benefit.

Woods and his father, Earl, established the foundation in 1996 with the mission of empowering young people to dream big and set goals to achieve those dreams through community-based programs, according to the foundation's Web site. An estimated 10 million children have benefited to date.

Sports Briefs

Mountain biking club offered at Outdoor Rec.

Join and receive free rides on Mondays now through September; free maintenance classes; and discounts on bike trips. Call ODR Graf at DSN 475-7402 or Vilseck at DSN 476-2563.

Get your bowling discount with BOSS

Every Wednesday, both bowling centers offer \$1.00 bowling from 5 - 10 p.m. You pay for your shoes plus \$1 per game.

BOSS meets every other Thursday at 1:30 p.m. Contact John Maki DSN 475-6116, or john.c.maki@eur.army.mil.

Sign up for men's, women's softball

Community level softball league, going on now through Aug. in Grafenwoehr. For more information, contact Mike Bradfish in Graf at DSN 475-9024/9007, Carl Boothe in Vilseck at DSN 476-2214/2998, or Tony Lee in Graf at DSN 475-7576.

Softball invitational held this weekend in Vilseck

Friday-Sunday: For more info, contact Carl Boothe at Vilseck Fitness Center, DSN 476-2214

Bowling centers offer specials, tournaments

Call Graf, DSN 475-6177 or Vilseck, DSN 476-2576 to find out about tournament schedules and leagues.

Today: 40 Frame Game Tournament Vilseck Bowling Center at 7 p.m. Payouts based on 1-5 ratios.

SCUBA open water diver course dates set

Monday: PADI Advanced Course Class includes theory, open water dives in five specialties, "C" card, patch, manual, equipment and more. Call ODR at DSN 475-7402 for more information.

July 12: PADI Open Water Diver Course Class includes theory, pool instruction, four open-water dives, equipment and more. Courses last about two weeks. Call ODR at DSN 475-7402

Find golf courses in Europe through ODR

ODR knows the great places to golf this summer. Call to find out what course offer military discounts. There are courses for everyone—beginners to experts. Call ODR at DSN 475-7402.

Join the Bamberg Aqua Barons swim team

Do you like to swim? The Bamberg Aqua Barons, member of the European Forces Swim League, is looking for youth swimmers and coaches.

Get in shape, stay in shape and travel with the team to swim meets in Germany, Italy, Spain, Belgium and England. Earn great rewards like trophies, medals, ribbons, and even an athletic letter. Contact Melissa Plamann at CIV 0951-297-3817 or e-mail bamberg_aquabarons@yahoo.com for information.

Free paintball lessons

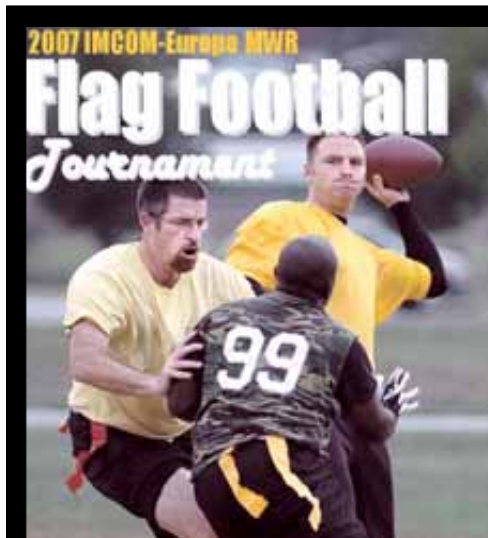
Come out to the Conn paintball field in Schweinfurt July 10 beginning at 1 p.m. and learn how to play paintball.

Learn proper safety, marker handling, and target acquisition techniques. Call DSN 353-6399 for more information.

Weekly Golf Scramble slated every Thursday

Join the weekly Thursday Night Scramble Golf Tournament at 5 p.m. at Bamberg's Whispering Pines Golf Course.

Entry fee is only \$5 per person. Please register by 4:30 p.m. Tournament starts at 5 p.m. Call DSN 469-8953 for more information.



JULY 28

Schwetzingen, Germany

Tomkins Barracks, 9 a.m.

Open to the first six teams

Call DSN 373-5022

Housing on the way for waiting Families

Continued From Page 1

we are making the assignments from the waiting list, and a fair allocation of houses based on the list,” said Hays.

“Also, we are continuing to have some 2SCR Families arrive here throughout the summer, plus Families from other units that are being stationed here (as part of the Transformation),” he explained.

“I understand that people are anxious, but we’re doing our best to get them into quarters as soon as they become available, and we do expect to have enough houses for everyone a little later in the year.”

Hays said the option of placing waiting Families into private rental quarters for a short period is really not much of an option, and would have a negative impact on future Soldiers.

“If we place people at this time in private rental quarters and then have to move them out in 60 or 90 days, the landlords are going to be very upset. They expect one-year leases, they’re not set up as hotels. If we start putting people in their houses for such short periods, they’re not going to want to lease out to Soldiers. So we’re trying to balance that out—what’s best for the Families, the housing market, and the Army.”

As of last week, 332 Families were on the waiting list for permanent housing. Of them, 114 are residing:

- in hotels (on or off post);
- hotel-like accommodations (pensions, bed and breakfasts, etc.); or
- with Family or friends.

The aforementioned 114 Families will receive permanent housing first.

Schunk said the remaining 218 Families are residing as follows, in:

- unaccompanied personal housing (on deferred travel, living in the barracks or senior enlisted quarters depending on rank, or bachelor officer quarters);
- private rental quarters;
- government quarters; or
- temporary quarters (Ex: Fitzhum Village, an 84-unit housing area on Vilseck post that was previously cleared out to be renovated. Fitzhum was reopened to temporarily house Families on the wait list, and renovations will begin later this year).

Schunk said although construction of the total 880 Netzaberg units will continue through next year, as completed units are handed over to they garrison, they will be distributed to waiting

Families. He said the garrison expects another 78 Netzaberg units to be handed in early August, another 82 to be handed over in early September, 76 more in early October, followed by an additional 76 units in mid October.

But, said Schunk, Families won’t have to wait for the Netzaberg units to open. In preparation for its Efficient Basing Grafenwoehr/Transformation population boom, Grafenwoehr scheduled the construction of several government-leased housing areas. Schunk said much of this construction is ongoing, but is expected to be finished by next year.

The following are among the several government— housing areas newly completed or under construction:

- Erbdorf (71 units, approximately 14 km north of Pressath)
- Kulmain (all 40 units were recently completed and assigned to waiting Families)
- Steinfels (40 units: 30 have recently been occupied and the remaining 10 units will be handed over to the garrison by the end of July)

Plans have also been approved to transform four large stairwell buildings into large-dwelling units.

Hays said Vilseck buildings 1690, 1695, 1400,

and 1405 will be ready for occupancy this fall. Walls will be knocked down in these buildings, he said, to combine and make large apartments to help satisfy the garrison’s five-bedroom requirements.

Another option being studied by Housing officials is to assign Families in high demand (three-bedroom junior and senior enlisted) categories to categories that have available quarters.

For example, a family with a three-bedroom requirement might be housed in a four bedroom unit if there is no waiting list for the four-bedroom unit and it fits the Family’s grade requirements.

This is called “overhousing” and can help to balance the waiting lists. “However, Hays said, it must be used on a case-by-case basis to be fair and equitable to everyone.”

“We have Soldiers and Families who need to focus on the upcoming deployment,” he said. “We will house everyone as soon as we possibly can and with the least hassle.

“Soldiers need to know that the Housing Office, DPW, and garrison are as concerned with taking care of the last arriving Families as much as we were for the first arriving Families last summer,” said Hays.

18th CSSB

Continued From Page 1

all of 18th CSSB.

“We want to reach out and make better friends with the German community,” Lueders said.

He went on to explain that the two units share many of the same values and experiences and that training together strengthens both sides. He also emphasized the friendship and need to bring younger Soldiers out of their comfort zones and into the community.

“We live in this community and should be a part of it. Some Soldiers have never experienced the German culture. This is the first step of a long road,” Lueders said.

To help increase the camaraderie between the two units, they will go out to the ranges together and participate in various sporting events together.

The new 18th CSSB commander, Lt. Col. Christopher Roscoe, was also enthusiastic about the partnership with the Freihung reserve unit.

“Anything you normally do like training, we include the Germans. Anything you can do to build friendship is a fantastic idea,” he said.

Roscoe took command of 18th CSSB on June 14 in a ceremony that also included the Freihung reserve unit in formation along with the other companies in the battalion.

Deployment info available at fair, throughout garrison

Continued From Page 1

but they have to have in mind that maybe they won’t (have an opportunity to) live in Germany again, but only visit.”

A deployment guide called “The Soldier/Family Deployment Survival Handbook” will be handed out at the fair. The guide covers deployment issues ranging from finances and emergency resources to what-scenarios and important contact information.

It will also include a pre-deployment checklist to assist both Single Soldiers and Families in organizing the many details.

“Every company should have a pre-deployment check-list” Solorzano said, but if someone doesn’t have it, the fair will be a good place to get one.

Simpkins said anyone who expects to face a deployment in the next year should attend.

An unsupervised playroom will be provided for children. The fair will also provide a car care clinic in the parking lot from 1 - 6 p.m., where attendees will be shown how to check their oil, air pressure, and fluid levels.

Simpkins said many of the agencies on post are working together to help ease deployment woes, including the Grafenwoehr Library, which will offer books specifically for children of deployed troops.

Vilseck’s ACS is offering a Pre-Deployment Training Workshop and will open a Yellow Ribbon Room with six computers and video cameras, set aside for Family members to send e-mails and chat with their deployed Soldier beginning in July.

ACS is also offering financial assistance, including counseling and a Dumping Debt During Deployment workshop.

“The Families are going to have a lot of extra money,” said Ryan Yarnell, an ACS personal financial readiness specialist.

He said a plan can help Families save money, pay off debts, stay out of debt, build a nest egg for retirement or rainy days, and reserve money to pay for block leave.

“It is a great opportunity to do these things, not to let this money go away,” he said. “If you do not set a goal or a plan, you will spend the extra money.”




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Environmental knowledge key at a very young age

Continued From Page 4

“I really liked the scavenger hunt,” fourth grade student Sofia Dinges said, “It was a lot of fun.”

“A lot of the stations are learning stations,” Kean said. “The third grade has been planting flower boxes for the school. We’ve planted 35 flower boxes with over 200 flowers.”

The children arranged the boxes on the school windows and “they will be in charge of them” explained Kean.

The culminating event was a symbolical tree planting in which the whole school and the visitors participated. U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Commander Col. Brian T. Boyle, School Liaison Officer Steve Vojtecky, and City of Grafenwoehr Mayor Helmuth Waechter were among the guests at the ceremony.

“This is the best Earth Day the children have ever seen,” Hooker said.

Beside the big success of this year’s event, “we hope we will get more support next year,” said Kean. “We live in this earth; we have to learn about it and to take care of it. This is the only way to go.”

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